



# Flood Advisory Committee

## Minutes of February 26, 2009 Meeting

- **The** second meeting of 2009 for the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) was called to order by Mark Smith at 7:40 PM in the Cranford Municipal Building.
- **The** following people were in attendance:  
Mark C. Smith, Edward Trush, Mike Pender, Rick Marsden, C. John Decotiis, Leo Coakley, Bob Puhak, Gregory A. Sgroi, Ellen Hunt, Elaine Meyer, Louis C. Lambe
- **The Minutes of the January 28, 2009 FAC meeting** were passed out to the individuals in attendance for review, comment, and correction. Hearing no requests for corrections, Mr. Smith made a motion for their acceptance and Mr. Decotiis offered a second. Subsequently, the minutes of the January 28, 2009 meeting were accepted by the committee.
- **The** committee reviewed the various ideas presented by Mr. Pender at the previous meeting regarding the ultimate placement and style of the **Pump Station Signage**:
  1. A sign or lettering above the front door of the station.
  2. A plaque at the corner of the building.
  3. A plaque on a cement monument which would be located in front of the building.
  4. A plaque mounted on a large boulder which would also be located in front of the building.Mr. Trush made a motion to forgo the discussion to the end of the meeting and his motion was seconded by Mr. Pender.
- **Mr.** Marsden reported on the **Cooperative effort of the Township and the County to restore the dike** to its original elevations by redistributing and reinforcing the soil. He stated that there is a meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> with the county engineer, the parks department and the DPW to discuss the project going forward. Mr. Smith commented that if the county had employees in need of work and in jeopardy of being laid off, a project such as ours which is labor intensive but requires little or no resources would be a great opportunity to keep these workers busy. Mr. Sgroi reiterated his suggestion from the previous meeting that we employ the simple and economical use of cement filled sand bags to restore the dike. Mr. Marsden reminded Mr. Sgroi that they intend to use the previously discussed more subtle stability enhancing technique of a honeycomb lattice to tie the landscape using soil.
- **An Update on Phase 5** – Mr. Smith explained the at the last Township Committee meeting Commissioner Aschenbach announced that he had a meeting with Vickie Durbin Drake and Freeholder Betty Jane Kawalski about the property located at 112 Park Drive. Apparently the county is amenable to contributing towards the purchase of this land for the purpose of installing the pump station needed to complete Phase 5. Mr. Sgroi suggested that if indeed this was the ideal spot for the pump station then the county should exercise their power of eminent domain and take the property. Messer's Coakley and Marsden confirmed that this property is in fact ideal. Mr. Coakley went on to suggest that if the county is to acquire the land then it should be documented in the acquisition documents that it is intended for use for a stormwater pumping station so that this use is not denied by Green Acres in the future if the property becomes part of the county park or otherwise comes under Green Acres Program jurisdiction. **(See Cranford Chronicle Article Attached To End of Minutes)**



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## ● *An* Update of Funding Efforts:

1. Mr. Smith reported that the status on the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) is that there is less than \$1 Million to go around for 2009 projects and we should get prepared for FY 2010.
2. Similarly Mr. Smith stated that there are a limited amount of projects receiving funding, so there will be no appropriations under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for Cranford
3. With regard to the Economic Stimulus projects submitted by Mr. Marsden, we have received word that the Governor will be charged with distributing those funds and that there were many large projects expecting consideration for funding. With the funds being limited it was suggested that we reach out to Mr. John O'Connor with the Army Corps of Engineers to make arrangements to be considered for FY 2010.
4. Mr. Marsden re-submitted a list of 7 projects to the NJDEP to be considered for funding from the New Jersey Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT) in 2010. There are grants and no interest loans available for such projects. Mr Marsden added that some of the projects had green and sustainable components that might make them more appealing. Nevertheless, the award of grant money is very unlikely but the zero percent loans are indeed a possibility. Mr. Marsden mentioned that Phase 2B and a Sanitary Sewer Project stood a good chance of being considered for just such funding. Mr. Trush suggested that are projects might be more eye catching if we aggressively promoted the idea of job creation and economic stimulus. Mr. Marsden offered that we have done so but most of these projects have the same appeal and it does not factor into which gets awarded.
5. Mr. Smith wrapped up the discussion for funding with the message received from Senator Lautenberg's office and Congressman Lance's office that the NE Quadrant project remains at the top of their lists for any available funding opportunities.

● *Mr.* Marsden explained that there is no update on the desilting project and the capital budget is shrinking quickly.

● *Mr.* Leo Coakley of Hatch Mott MacDonald and Mr. Marsden attended a meeting with Freeholder Betty Jane Kawalski and the Union County Engineer, Mr. Mineo about the reestablishment of the **Rahway Basin Commission**. Mr. Mineo explained that interest in the original commission subsided and its members allowed for the entity to lapse and dissolve. The county is now contemplating keeping the idea but restricting the focus to Union County to benefit from the county's funding opportunities as well as keep a more local and vested interest in flood relief efforts.

● *No* final comments were offered by the group.



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- **At** this time the discussion regarding the placement of the pump station sign continued. In addition to the pictures provided by Mr. Pender, pictures of similar dedications were offered for comparison. Mr. Sgroi, for whom the station is dedicated, reiterated his preference for a sign over the door or at least somewhere on the station itself and suggested that if the board did not consider his humble request and voted against his preference he would ask for a month to canvas the neighborhood to obtain the opinion of every one of the nearby residents. A sign dedicated to Judge Bell was offered for comparison and Mr. Sgroi suggested that the size of the sign is larger than the sign being discussed. Mr. Sgroi also offered pictures of the signage for the Swack Hamer Room in the Cranford Public Library as well as the Edward K. Gill apartments. Mr. Puhak stated for the record that the sign for Judge Bell was supposed to be smaller but the vendor made a mistake. Mr. Puhak added that he thought a plaque would be very becoming and perhaps a classier look than a sign. Mr. Coakley suggested that the zoning ordinance should be consulted for guidance as to what is allowed. Mr. Trush offered a motion to eliminate the words pumping station and allow Mr. Sgroi the remainder of his sign. No second was offered and the discussion continued. Mrs Hunt suggested that the committee should honor Mr. Sgroi's request for a sign since we did dedicate the station in his honor. Mr. Trush reiterated his desire to drop the words "Pumping Station" from the sign and allowing Mr. Sgroi's name to appear as he is requesting. Mr. Pender reminded the committee that Cranford went to great lengths to make the station look like a house so that it fit in with its surroundings. As the discussion came to a close, Mr. Sgroi stated that he may perhaps be amenable to the right plaque placed above the door in lieu of a sign. Mr. Smith tabled the idea again suggesting that a vote by e-mail might take place before the next meeting.
- **Mr.** Smith announced that the next meeting would be at 7:30 PM on March 26, 2009.
- **A** motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Bob Puhak and seconded by Elaine Meyer at 9:35 PM.