



Flood Advisory Committee

Minutes of March 26, 2009 Meeting

- **The** third meeting of 2009 for the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) was called to order by Mr. Robert Puhak at 7:47 PM in room 108 of the Cranford Municipal Building.. Mr. Puhak was asked to chair the meeting for Mr. Smith who was unfortunately feeling under the weather.
- **The** following people were in attendance:
Bob Puhak, C. John Decotiis, Mike Pender, Leo Coakley, Tom Mineo, Rick Marsden, Elaine Meyer, Joseph Musillo, Louis C. Lambe
- **The Minutes of the February 26, 2009 FAC meeting** were distributed by e-mail prior to the meeting and individuals in attendance given the opportunity to comment on or correct them. Mr. Marsden suggested that the 6th item listed under the Funding could be omitted altogether because it was not relevant to the discussion. Hearing no other requests for corrections, Mr. Puhak requested a motion for their acceptance stipulating the deletion of Mr. Marsden's comment. A motion was offered by Mr. Pender and a second by Mr. Musillo and the minutes of the February 26, 2009 meeting were accepted by attending members of the committee.
- **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 27th 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.

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

● **The** next meeting will be at 7:30 PM on April 23, 2009.

● **A** motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Bob Puhak and seconded by Elaine Meyer at 9:35 PM.