



Flood Advisory Committee

Minutes of September 24, 2009 Meeting

- *The* seventh meeting of 2009 for the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) was called to order by Chairman Mark C. Smith at 7:30 PM in room 108 of the Cranford Municipal Building.
- *The* following people were in attendance:
Deputy Mayor Mark C. Smith, Ed Trush, Louis C. Lambe, C. John DeCotiis, Mike Pender, Tom Hannen, Ed Trush, Gregory Sgroi, Joe Musillo, Rick Marsden.
- *The Minutes of the August 27, 2009 FAC meeting* were distributed and individuals in attendance given the opportunity to comment on or correct them. After noting the requested changes, Mr. Smith requested a motion for the acceptance of the minutes with the requested corrections to be made. A motion was offered by Mr. Lambe and seconded by Mr. Musillo. Subsequently, the minutes of the August 27, 2009 meeting were accepted by attending members of the committee.
- *Township Engineer Updates:*
 1. *Lenape Basin Control Structure:* Mr. Marsden started by stating that Mr. Coakley's plan to alter this structure would slow down the peak flow but would not be the end all to our problems. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Marsden what the ballpark estimated cost might be. Mr. Marsden replied that it would be expensive because of the way it was originally built. He also suggested that he would need a little more detail and would have to do some more modeling to get a better idea of what the true benefit would be to doing the work. Mr. Sgroi recalled that the structure is 4' x 30' and he has done calculations for head water and tail water for 4', 5', and 6' high openings. He recalled that Mr. Coakley was impressed with the detail of his work. Mr. Marsden stated that the suggestion has merit and it was referred to the county for review. Mr. Trush asked Mr. Marsden to suggest a ballpark number for the cost and he estimated that a couple of hundred thousand dollars could easily be in order and reiterated that it is not going to be as easy as it sounds to do the work. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Sgroi to share what benefit his calculations yielded. Mr. Sgroi responded that he estimates that there would be a 22% improvement. Mr. Trush asked if we are sure that this is really where we want the county to pay up when 2.b and Phases 3 & 4, remain unfunded. Mr. Smith added that we have yet to receive money from the county for projects that already done. Mr. Sgroi stated that the Tax Day storm rose to an elevation of 73 feet which is 2 feet above the control structure and about 2-3 feet from the top so we can go to 71' with no problem. Mr. Marsden stated that the road was flooded in the low lying areas upstream and there was noticeable debris in the streets. Mr. Marsden will speak with Mr. Mineo to get an update.



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● *Township Engineer Updates Continued:*

2. *Striping of Riverside Drive:* Mr. Marsden stated that the striping is scheduled to be done. Mr. Smith added that it is a matter of public safety and it will be done.

3. *Additional Landscaping at the Pump Station:* Mr. Smith stated that past Township Committee members made promises to completely landscape around the pump station. Mr. Marsden stated that all of the landscaping included in the publicly vetted design have been completed and satisfy the contract. Mr. Pender stated that the landscaping and the pump station are an issue now but will not be as noticeable in ten years when all of the landscaping has matured. Mr. Marsden added that there was landscaping done to hide the transformer but we need to let the trees fill in to be effective. Mr. Smith and Mr. Marsden considered planting an evergreen vine along the fence which should help the matter. Mr. Hannen suggested that Ivy sounds like it would work as well but this approach would cause the fence to wear much more quickly. Mr. Smith suggested planting Bamboo which fills in quickly and grows rather tall. Mr. Trush made a recommendation to have Mr. Pender and Mr. Sgroi form a subcommittee to address the issue regarding the landscaping of the pump station.

● *US Army Corps of Engineers Update:* Mr. Smith reported that Mr. O'Connor could not attend the September meeting but will be attending in the near future. He also explained that the involvement of the USACE is unavoidable because of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 which requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps of Engineers, for the construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States. Mr. Hannen suggested that this may not apply because beyond the dam it is no longer a tidal river. Mr. Hannen wanted to know if the committee was making any attempts to get stimulus money to work on our projects. Mr. Marsden explained that we have applied properly and are very high on the list of projects for Phase 5 and 2.b is in the 100 neighborhood on the same list. Mr. Hannen asked if the committee has considered going to other members of the legislature other than Congressman Lance. Mr. Smith stated that the committee has been in touch with Senator Lautenberg's office as well as other state legislators to bring attention to our needs. Finally, Mr. Smith stated that hopefully, Mr. O'Connor can make our next meeting and give us an idea of what kind of progress we can get out of the last \$300,000 earmarked for the Cranford Flood Control Project.



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● *Proposal to Establish a Flood Related Archive at Cranford Library for the following:*

1. Review of Flood Control Measures , CDM, Decemember 2001
2. Interim Project Report NE Quadrant Phases 3 and 4, April 2009
3. Report Upon Flooding ... Along the Rahway River, Killam & Associates, 1973
4. Newspaper Clipping File
5. Flood Maps, February, 1983
6. Flood Maps, September, 2006

Mr. Sgrois began by stating that he has given all of his archives to the Historical Society which included pictures of the Round House, an exhibit presented to the State Municipal Engineers, and 4 loose leaf binders containing engineering articles for 11 years. Mr. Musillo reminded the committee that Cranford received CRS points for establishing a reference in the library; however, someone was supposed to follow up and maintain it but no one has done so. Mr. Smith asked the committee for ideas on how to proceed and maintain this data going forward. Mr. Marsden stated that he gave the library the FEMA books and plans for the CRS library. Mr. Smith mentioned that the entire collection was cataloged. Mr. Trush and Mr. DeCotiis volunteered to visit the library and see what is listed under flood.

- *Comments:* Mr. Smith is going to be part of the Planning Board to review the Master Plan for Cranford and Mr. Trush would like to know if the committee is OK with the plan calling to “Revise ordinances to permit the flexibility to allow residential development to be raised outside the floodplain in accordance with FEMA regulations;” and Incorporate stormwater controls into new development.” Mr. Marsden stated it is necessary and appropriate to be included.

Mr. Sgrois explained that he and Mr. Pender made an inspection of the river and sat with County Public Works Director and presented at the last Township Commissioner’s meeting. The gentlemen took pictures of a blockage and have been consistently following up to get the blockage cleared. A formal letter was written to the county asking them to address the blockage. As of the date of this meeting there was no action taken and Mr. Sgrois pondered who will take over for him when he can no longer do this work.

Mr. Lambe commented that the Township website is out dated and needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Musillo stated that he used to do the updating and would be able to gain access if needed to make any updates necessary.

- *A Motion* to adjourn the meeting was offered by Mr. Brennen and seconded by Mr. Trush at 8:40PM.