

# Town of Shandaken

## S.A.F.A.R.I. Meeting Notes

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:00am – 12:00pm

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### Attendance:

Babs Mansfield, Town of Shandaken Supervisor, CRS Coordinator  
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent  
Robert Drake, Shandaken Town Board member & Deputy Supervisor  
Leslie Zucker, AWSMP Program Coordinator, CCEUC  
Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE  
Bobby Taylor, AWSMP CSBI Coordinator, UCSWCD  
Sally Rodgers, AWSMP Education Program Manager, CCEUC  
Max Kelly, AWSMP Watershed Educator, CCEUC  
Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, NYCDEP  
Marlana Moore, NYCFFBO Project Manager, NYCDEP  
Karen Lee, Conservation Advisory Council & Comp Plan Committee member  
Eric Lane, Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program Manager, CWC

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### Tasks:

- **Heidi** to reach out to new Floodplain Admin in early March Re: CAV
  - **Heidi** to relay current re-use plans for final review by current town leadership.
  - **Heidi** to create calendar invite for Hazard Mitigation Plan review
  - **Robert** to call Karen Stainbrook, DEC re: willingness to meet with town and DEP staff before or after next CWC meeting (March) for next steps on relocation/swap
  - **Leslie** will add Overlook Press to the AWSMP PR distribution list
  - **Marlana** to re-send re-use plans and final conservation easements for signature, when available.
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### “A Death by a Thousand Cuts in Phoenicia” Article by the Overlook (2/6/26)

- Karen shares that she felt really discouraged and almost offended by the negative tone found in the article.
- Leslie says she’ll add the Overlook Press to the AWSMP’s press release distribution list
- Rich Parete, CWC board member, reached out to Babs re: sewer following the article.
- Can the town spin this to the town’s advantage?
  - Floodplain issues and regulations are a challenge. We hear you and are working on mitigating these issues. Besides flood reduction, floodplain benches and enhancements turning into parklands will foster the desired “recreation economy” and “eco-tourism.”

### Town of Shandaken Floodplain Development

- Floodplain Administration updates on technical assistance needs, permits, issues, applications, etc.
  - The Town Board met and passed a special resolution to post for the position of Floodplain Administrator.

- Agreement that the town needs a CFM and Donna, despite her best efforts, has too much on her plate to get there.
      - Town has spoken to Rob Stanley; he is interested and may apply
    - Looking to appoint someone to the position on March 2.
  - Issue on Rte 214 – landowner is going to court this month. Donna had issued a stop-work order. They have exceeded their 50% Substantial Improvement threshold.
- **New Park manager for Rock Cut** – Euginia Krauss, lives locally.
  - Heidi / Max: happy to attend meetings if a committee is re-convened.
  - Leslie: CSBI program would love to support a project.
  - Eric: always remember, plan for operations and maintenance.
- Remaining **Community Assistance Visit** issues may still exist
  - As of September, there were 3 remaining parcels with issues flagged by DEC. If not resolved, its possible it could impact the CRS program. This remains to be seen.
  - These issues should be reviewed with the town and SAFARI support, so they can be remedied soon.
    - Heidi to follow up with the new FPA in March.

### Town Hall & Highway Complex Relocation Updates

- Progress report on **Local Gov't Efficiency Grant** Contract and Planning Project
  - Heidi shares that the grant contract is working its way through the county process.
  - Heidi will begin drafting the RFP and will share with the town, though the RFP committee will have to be comprised of county staff.
    - A Project Advisory Committee will be assembled once a consultant is chosen.
- Update on **20-acre parcel, Big Indian** (adj. Golf Course Rd).
  - Now under contract to be sold (not to the town).
- Update on **259-acre parcel, Big Indian** (presently owned by DEP).
  - Jason Merwin hosted a meeting with Karen Stainbrook, the new NYC Watershed liaison at NYSDEC (taking on many of the responsibilities of Tom Snow).
    - She will help identify where there may be opportunities for swaps.
    - It is understood that she is supportive of Shandaken's efforts to obtain a portion of this 259-acre NYCDEP parcel.
  - Marlana will move this up the chain – let NYCDEP higher-ups know the town is very interested in relocating here.
  - **Next step:** If Karen plans on attending the March CWC meeting? Might be an opportunity to gather and discuss next steps.
    - John Schwartz, Shilo Williams – they attend these CWC meetings; it would be great if they could join the proposed discussion.
    - Robert will reach out to Karen – see if she's attending; if so, we can coordinate a meeting pre- or post- CWC meeting.

### Phoenicia Resilience Project (Benches and Bridges)

- Reminder: **upcoming discussion with NYSDOT – Feb 11, 2026**
  - Leslie sent an agenda – there is space at the top of the agenda for people to express their interest in this stretch of river:
    - This is an opportunity for the town to emphasize its support. They can make the case that municipal officials are actively engaged and committed.
    - The county can weigh in (Heidi); County is actively supporting this work by virtue of this position, but more actively with Bridge Street Bridge work and recent financial support requests.
      - WRDA Grant
  - DEP and the District can discuss collaboration and financial support of the project

## Chichester LFA and the Chi-FAC

- Update on recent FAC activities:
  - Sally shares that there was a productive pre-planning meeting on January 28
  - Future meetings will be on the last Wednesday of every month.
    - Next month, the committee meeting will start at 2 pm.
    - Please send Sally any historical pictures, documents, or upload them to the Google Drive.
    - Karen suggests hosting a meeting at Shandaken Museum's Chichester Room.
  - Leslie sent Babs a copy of the service agreement for her review and approval. Babs to review.

## Community Rating System Program Activities Update:

- Second and Final CRS review underway
  - **Substantial Damage Management Plan** is still forthcoming
  - Heidi provides the committee with a brief summary of what this plan will achieve:
    - Triage of all inventory in the Special Flood Hazard Area and 0.2% annual chance flood zone (aka 500-year);
      - Will gather current market values for parcels based on a formula Tetra Tech will help the town establish per an SOP.
      - Will group parcels together based on their likelihood of being substantially damaged to help officials use their limited resources wisely during flood response.
      - Will require participation and input from key stakeholders, including the building department.

## New York City Funded Flood Buy-Out Program

- Review of Program, Process and Community's Role
  - Marlana explains that there are three different roles:
    - The Town (party to contract, often the future landowner)
    - The Outreach and Assessment Lead (presently Heidi, liaising with the landowner)
    - The DEP (Purchaser)
  - Marlana explains the process for reviewing eligibility and the appraisal process.
  - She explains that all parcels have a long contract process, and will be encumbered by a conservation easement and re-use plan for town-owned parcels.
    - Re-Use plans have been recently reviewed and signed by the previous administration.
      - Marlana will send to Heidi for recirculation, incase there are any final change requests from the new administration.
    - Conservation Easements on completed FBO parcels will also have to be resigned by the Supervisor, now that the language has been finalized.
      - Byron, Damiana, Lefferts, Shurter
- Updates on currently participating parcels
  - 38 Main Street
    - Appraiser has not provided a price yet. Marlana is hoping for a price on Monday. DEP will review the appraisal and then make the offer.
  - 464 Plank Rd
    - Town signed contract paperwork last night with the landowner
  - 576 Plank Rd
    - The town considers keeping the uplands out of the easement to allow for the greatest re-use flexibility.
      - There is a discussion about including or excluding interior portions of the lot (presently outside of the SFHA) vs. just the area at the

- Plank Road entrance.
    - Interior lands may be more difficult to describe for CE purposes.
  - Heidi asks is there language the DEP could provide to help with resolution?
    - Marlana will consult with her team.
    - Resolution doesn't have to be passed now. The landowners may not even want to move forward with DEP. If they appear interested in a DEP offer, then the town can pass a resolution.
- 7209 Rte 28 – Town Hall and Highway Garage
  - Offer was sent to the town. If the town has any questions, Marlana is available.
  - The comps are available in the appraisal report, if the town is interested.

### Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

- Review Started; set date for second half
  - UC Overall Plan can be found [here](#). **Shandaken Annex** can be found [here](#).
    - Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> - 10am. FINALIZE Annex Report!!
      - Heidi will create a calendar invite.

### Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
  - Max shares that NYSFSMA's annual conference will be held April 28-30. A scholarship announcement is forthcoming.
- **CWC**
  - Eric shares that CWC is working on DEP contract amendment. CWC hopes to negotiate more funding for community facilities relocation.
  - Leslie says that she recently had a conversation with Jason Merwin proposing that CWC offer financial assistance for folks newly mapped into the floodway. He was interested. This would be a big help when the LOMR is finalized.
- **NYCDEP, Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**
  - None.

**Review Last Month's Notes:** Send to Joyce  
**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026