

MINUTES

Flood Advisory Committee - Downingtown Borough

February 8, 2024

The Flood Advisory Committee for Downingtown Borough met in a regular session on February 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Government Center, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA. Board Members present: Cori Trice, Max Howard, Jack Moyer, Dan Castaldi, Alex Rakoff, Phil Dague, and Matt Bush.

Approve December's Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve January's meeting minutes, committee member Alex Rakoff made the motion, committee vice chairperson Max Howard seconded, motion carried unanimously. Action regarding previous months' meeting minutes was deferred.

Deferred Business

Emergency Response Plan Status Check – Borough Emergency Management Coordinator Mark Force is currently working on the plan and updates will be provided at future meetings as available. Alex provided an update on recent Borough Council action regarding emergency response personnel. FAC to invite Mark to a future meeting.

PEMA Buy Out Program Update – Matt Bush gave an update regarding the status of the program and noted that the grant has been approved and funds are now available; offer letters have begun to go out; coordination and permitting are currently ongoing with expected settlement dates of approximately first quarter-early second quarter of 2024 and demolition during the summer of 2024 pending the status of a couple properties.

New Business

Update on Downingtown Strong – Phil provided an update; the group will be meeting the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm. The group recently received 501(c)(3) status and will be looking to issue a press release soon.

Update on Downingtown Resiliency Fund – Barry Cassidy provided an update on the group's activities, webpage is now live, public kickoff meeting likely moved to May, time to be determined. Barry explained that FEMA will provide training for members of the group to be able to help during a disaster. Max asked to have the public meeting advertised in the Borough newsletter.

Grant Funding Update – No update, Max brought up a possible stream gauge and the products' capabilities.

Review committee-led and citizen-led projects –

- i. Heavy duty stream clean-up before Fall storms and in early Spring
 - a. Data collection methods – Cori discussed planning a mapping or scouting event. Data collection would occur within municipal boundaries. Max discussed app “Solocator” to track pictures and locations. Tracking information to be given to Public Works. Committee talked about a cleanup event possibly on Earth Day 2024. Jack mentioned a tree down near Miller's off of 282.
 - b. Schedule event - On Monday, 2/12, some committee members will be giving West Chester University students a walking tour of Downingtown and possibly do some scouting. Committee discussed March 9 at 8:00 am as a date for first scouting. Meeting would begin at Johnsontown Park. Timing would be 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- ii. Reverse 911 program to the homes in the 100 year and 500 year known flood zones – no update at this time, FAC to reach out to Mark Force.

- iii. Discuss published web page – Committee discussed updating the page to HTML rather than a PDF link if possible. Cori recommended the word “Flooding” be included on the homepage with a link to the page.
- iv. Set up the non-USGS monitoring stations and figure out how to get that information to residents – no update at this time, currently seeking funding to implement.

Citizens to be Heard

Dawn McMichael of 310 Mary Street asked about terms for the committee and possible terms ending in March. Cori to email Jeff to recommend reappointment of members with staggered terms, possibly for consideration at the March Borough Council meeting.

For the Good of the Order

Cori Trice mentioned that West Chester University is running a studio on climate resiliency in Downingtown and some committee members will leading a walking tour with the students next week to guide their coursework for this semester.

Phil Dague mentioned a Brandywine Flood Study public meeting that is currently occurring in Chadds Ford.

Adjournment

Committee member Alex Rakoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., committee member Dan Castaldi seconded; motion carried unanimously.