



# Meeting Notes

## Planning Committee Meeting

July 16, 2014 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
6 Horton Road, Blooming Grove, NY

**Attendance:** (Members, Planner, Firm Representatives, Invited Guests)

**Town of Blooming Grove Steering Committee:**

Perry Ragusa                      Carl Takiakjian  
Richard Bachman                Rick Bukowski  
Walter Millet                      Lorraine Tomassi  
Julius Sas  
Jay Beaumont  
Robert Fromaget

**New York Rising Program**

Lori DuBord

**New York State Dept. of State:**

Lisa Melville

**Tetra Tech, Inc.:**

Emily Slotnick

Susan Roth

**Town of Blooming Grove**

Robert Fromaget, Supervisor

Johanna Kiernan, Town Board

Agenda Item: Future Meetings/Status of Deliverables                      Presenter:            Tetra Tech

Summary of Discussion:

1. Meeting notes will be sent to members via email in PDF format, and will not be printed out for future meetings.
2. The Co-Chairs were selected, Richard Bachman and Perry Ragusa.
3. The first public engagement meeting will be held at the Town Hall Board meeting room and will be the 30<sup>th</sup> of July, from 7-9. Ads have already been purchased. The format of the meeting was described. The committee agreed to promote the meeting as well.
4. Next committee meeting is the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 5-7pm.
5. Tetra Tech is working to collect background data for the plan, and will continue to move forward to write the first section of the plan.

Decision/Motions/Votes: Notes from July 2 were accepted without change.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Due Date:
---------------	---------------------	-----------

Prepare for Public Engagement meeting on 7/30	Tetra Tech	ASAP
---	------------	------

Agenda Item: Vision Statement                      Presenter:            Tetra Tech

Summary of Discussion:

1. The Draft Vision statement was circulated via email was discussed and finalized at the meeting.

Decision/Motions/Votes: The committee accepted the following as a draft vision statement: “To provide a stronger safer more resilient community for the residents of the Town of Blooming Grove and the Village of South Blooming Grove by restoring natural systems; expanding the body of knowledge regarding the causes of local flood events; creating and implementing projects to address those causes and current damage; and plan for future flood safe neighborhoods to reduce future damage while maintaining the vitality and viability of the Town of Blooming Grove.”

Action Items: N/A	Person Responsible	Due Date
-------------------	--------------------	----------

Agenda Item: Finalizing Goals	Presenter: Tetra Tech	
-------------------------------	-----------------------	--

Summary of Discussion:

1. Tetra tech will come back to the committee with a list of about 10 goals after the critical assets and flood prone areas are identified more fully. These goals will tie into the Vision Statement.
2. Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Due Date
---------------	--------------------	----------

Agenda Item: Critical Assets and Issues	Presenter: Tetra Tech	
---	-----------------------	--

Summary of Discussion:

1. Tetra Tech identified a preliminary list of critical issues, identified through discussions with the committee members and from other sources. The list is still in the process of refinement. This list contains several general topic areas that will be presented at the first public meeting to request further public input.
  - Residential Flooding
  - Stormwater Impacts
  - Undersized Culverts and inadequate infrastructure
  - Flood water hindering access of town services
  - Understanding the source of flooding, including monitoring of stream gauges
  - Potential Stream Maintenance
  - Private and public property management of spillways.
2. Committee members contributed the following details regarding past damages:
  - Beaver Dam Lake is going to be drained and rebuilt this fall.

- The Merrywell Lake Dam should be examined.
  - A privately owned dam on Lake Hildergard on Prospect Road is silted up and does not have any capacity.
  - There is a big retention pond and a drainage coming off of David Plotkin's property and entering the water system.
  - The present dam gate at Tomahawk Lake takes two weeks to lower the level 6 feet and may be too small. It is a private lake. The larger concern is how to approach the owner to coordinate the opening of gate, and how to balance private and public interests regarding the release of the water. A project could be to add a second gate to the dam.
  - A committee member noted that management of the streams in a village owned park is hindered by the requirement that equipment not use oil based machinery.
  - The committee discussed installing more stream gauges as a potential project.
  - A homeowner at 106 Barnes Road has not returned to her home because the property was condemned. This comment led to a discussion of buyouts (FEMA), and the potential of a NYRCR project to assist home owners with a buyout program. One of the committee members stated that several people were offered buyouts through FEMA in Blooming Grove, but only three accepted. Tetra Tech mentioned flood proofing and changing zoning codes as two options that can help create more resiliency in the future.
  - The committee noted that flood events in the area since 2007 have been more severe, though the cause is unknown.
  - There are two developments where the design of the housing development has increased problems with runoff. One is called Prides Crossing (located in Washingtonville).
  - Severe stormwater flooding plagues residences in the Mountain Lodge community. Heavy sheetflow flooding brings debris down from the adjacent hillside. Original drainage facilities in the community have not been maintained, and all of the access roads are privately owned dirt and gravel roads (or trails) limiting the Town's ability to provide services, although emergency vehicles do have access. Most homes are owner occupied, and there is a homeowners association in the community.
  - Another area of improvement is Glenwood Hills and Orchard Lake. These communities have similar access problems as Mountain Lodge as well as similar problems with sheet flooding from the surrounding hills.
3. The committee members collectively expressed concern about the timing of the release of the dams, avoiding flood damage from uncoordinated dam releases, and the need to synchronize such releases. The hydraulic modeling will provide a basis to begin the discussion with the owner. The state agency review team (SART) can provide information on rights of the owner versus rights of homeowners downstream or of the State, and further advice on funding strategies, if necessary, for improvements.
  4. Most residents are concerned about rising flood insurance rates.
  5. The committee members discussed hazard zone buffers as a means to minimize flood damage. Many of the homes in the planning area were built prior to regulations, and are in flood zones. While new

