



Meeting Notes #8

Planning Committee Meeting

October 15, 2014, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Town Hall, Horton Road, Blooming Grove, NY

Attendance:

Town of Blooming Grove Steering Committee:

Richard Bachman
Perry Ragusa
Jay Beaumont
Carl Takiakjian
Lorraine Tomassi
Julius Sas

NY Rising

Lori DuBord

NY Department of State

Lisa Melville

Public

Valarie Prunty
Kate Ahanadi
Russell Hallock

Tetra Tech, Inc.:

Emily Slotnick
Susan Roth

Town of Blooming Grove

Johanna Kiernan, Town Board
Robert Fromaget, Supervisor

Agenda Item: Welcome/Notes/Future Meetings

Presenter: Tetra Tech/Slotnick

Summary of Discussion:

1. Emily Slotnick welcomed everyone to the meeting. Meeting notes from the committee meeting held on October 1st were approved by the committee.
2. The date for Public Engagement Meeting #3 will be on November 5th. Prior to this meeting there will be a committee meeting. The committee meeting will start at 6:00, and the public engagement meeting will start at 7:00.
3. The public engagement meeting team is working on outreach materials that were developed according to comments received by the committee.
4. Final cost benefit analyses for all projects are due in early November. The goal is to receive feedback on the projects at the public hearing before making final decisions on how project should be categorized. The goal of today's meeting is progress the definition of projects that will be subject to a cost benefit analysis. The list of projects was organized in accordance with feedback received from the committee on October 1st.
5. Public Comment:
 - Beaver Dam Lake was not mentioned at the public engagement meeting. Beaver Dam Lake is scheduled to be drained this fall to be repaired. The commenter wanted to know when the water was going to be released.
 - The commenter was happy that the community of Mountain Lodge Park was included in the plan. There was an enormous amount of damage on Woodcock Road caused by lack of

maintenance of the drainage system. The water ends up by the trailer park and there is a need to repair the system.

6. Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

Action Items: N.A.	Person Responsible:	Due Date:
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Agenda Item: Project Review	Presenter:	Tetra Tech/Slotnick
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Summary of Discussion:

1. A listing of the potential projects for Blooming Grove was provided to the committee members and discussed at the meeting. Project definitions were refined and provided in tabular format with preliminary cost estimates provided by Tetra Tech. Emily Slotnick explained that the estimates needed to be refined through detailed project definition and the cost benefit analysis that would be undertaken in the coming weeks. The projects are presented in no-particular order, even though they are numbered on the sheet in order to facilitate discussion.
2. The categories of projects were described to the committee:
 - o Proposed Projects: Those projects expected to be CDBG-eligible and potentially recommended for funding by the NY Rising Program. The Proposed project list should include more projects that could be potentially funded in case one project is found to not be feasible in terms of time constraints or eligibility requirements. Each single proposed project needs to cost less than 3 million dollars, or have the additional funding secured.
 - o Featured projects: These projects are expected to be CDBG-eligible, but may have some constraints that prohibits them from being Proposed. They may be larger than the scope of the NY Rising Funding, may be better funded by other sources, or may have been determined by the committee to address a less immediate need, but still important to the community.
 - o Additional Resiliency: These projects are characterized as longer term projects that would be important to the community in terms of a longer term and broader vision, and may not be eligible for CDBG-DR funding.
 - o Both the Proposed Projects and the Featured Project will undergo a cost benefit analysis in the plan. The categorization of the projects may change after the Cost Benefit analysis is complete.
3. There was discussion regarding the types of projects and how the committee should focus expenditures.
4. There was a general comment regarding the cost of maintenance of projects and the need to evaluate this in the Cost Benefit Analysis.
5. It was announced that the Town of Blooming Grove has agreed to administer the NY Rising grant for the Village of Washingtonville.
6. Project 1: The committee was made aware that the NYRCR Village of Washingtonville Plan proposes to undertake a detailed Hydraulic Study of Moodna Creek and the watershed. The Blooming Grove Committee recommended a similar project on the preliminary project list being discussed currently, and

has tentatively committed 500,000 to the study, and 1 million for the implementation. Since this study area of concern for the Washingtonville Proposed study overlaps with the area that affects the Town of Blooming Grove, this project represents an opportunity to cooperate with the Village of Washingtonville in the effort. A collaborative study between the two municipalities could the riverine reaches in the Village, as well as those throughout the Town and surrounding areas, depending on the scope, as well as the storm water analysis needed in several areas of the Town.

There was significant discussion on the benefits and costs of the study. The estimated costs include designated funding to implement recommendations of the studies. The committee agreed to keep it on the list of projects that would undergo a cost/benefit analysis. The budget for the implementation is yet to be determined. This project would also be eligible for the Rising to the Top competition under the Regional category. Lori DuBord is working on a joint committee meeting between the Washingtonville and the Blooming Grove NY Rising Committees to further this discussion.

7. Project 2: Strategic Residential Flood Mitigation: There was discussion regarding the eligible participants and whether or not a buy-out program would be used by affected homeowners. There was also discussion of the need for this project if the study (Project 1) yielded a solution to the flooding in the affected neighborhoods. The committee wanted to know how homes would be defined as eligible to participate, and how value would be determined. Emily Slotnick recommended that the committee reach out to home owners that were flooded to gauge the receptiveness of the program. Another option would be to offer a grant program for flood proofing or mitigation after the planning team confirms the terms of eligibility. The committee agreed that this project should be kept on the list as a featured or additional resiliency project to focus on mitigation measures, and requested that the word “buy out” be taken out of the description.
8. Project 3: Barnes Road Levy was recommended by the HEC/RAS engineering team as a way to protect homes on Barnes Road. The need for this project may be resolved with the implementation of recommendations of a study if Project 1 is advanced. The committee asked how many homes would be given relief from the building of the levy.
9. Project 4: Transportation and Critical Facility Asset management Tool: This project was described to the committee. Lori DuBord noted that the project may not be eligible for CBDG funding. More information is needed to assess its eligibility.
10. Project 5: Strategic Critical Facility Flood proofing and Structural Mitigation program. The new site that would be proposed for the Town Maintenance Garage was to be verified.
11. Project 6: Mountain Lodge Park Drainage and Improvement Study: This project was described, and the committee agreed that this project should remain on the proposed project list. It is important to add Woodcock Mountain Road into this project.
12. Project 7: Update and Local Code and Ordinances: The committee would like to see further evaluation of this project under a cost benefit analysis.
13. Project 8: Creation of an Emergency Shelter. Caitlin Kelly is following up with the Orange County to further assess the status of the Emergency Services in this region. It was noted that although there is a need for a shelter, a potential site has not been determined, and the implementation of the project may be out of the required timeline of the NY Rising funding. Since this need has been identified in several

plans it could be the subject of a Rising to the top application. This project was moved to additional resiliency.

14. Project 9: Install Natural Gas or Solar Backup for Critical Infrastructure: There was discussion of the current backup generator systems that are used by the Town, and what types of fuel sources would be best.
15. Project 10: Emergency Alert and Warning Systems and public information: There are county and town emergency systems in place and this project would be a public outreach campaign to get people signed up for those program. There is a need to ensure that the programs are not being duplicated, and to determine an appropriate allocation for this project.
16. Project 11: Interoperable Communications: The committee discussed the potential of this project to create a better communication system in Blooming Grove across emergency providers. Infrastructure for a communications program is eligible for CDBG funding but radio equipment may not be eligible. Lori DuBord announced that a funding program for Emergency Equipment will soon be available and she will send information by email. The committee wanted to know if there were any plans by the county to improve the system. The Planning team is going to discuss future plans with the Orange County Emergency Services.
17. Project 12: Rails to Trails: The committee discussed the potential of an expansion of the Rails to Trails, and there was discussion on the route, the cost of implementing, and how it could be potentially built and maintained. There was also discussion on how the connection would be made to the storm to justify the project's eligibility under CDBG-DR. The project was determined to be a project more appropriate to additional resiliency.
18. Project 13: Participation in Community Rating System (CRS): The committee discussed the potential of becoming a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) community, which would reduce flood insurance rates with a ratings system designed to increase resiliency in the community. The committee wanted to know how many homes were required to have flood insurance in Blooming Grove, and asked if the savings that could be realized as part of this project be reflected in the Cost Benefit Analysis.
19. Project 15: Funding for a Floodplain Manager: This project was moved to the additional resiliency project recommendation.
20. Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

Action Items: N/A

Person Responsible

Due Date

1. Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

End of Meeting Notes