



Meeting Minutes

City & Town of Amsterdam, Town of Florida

Planning Committee

September 19, 2013, 1:00PM to 2:10PM
Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce
1166 Riverfront Center, Amsterdam, NY

Attendance: Kevin Millington (NYS DOS), Jon Wimbush (NYS DOS), Amy Mahl (E & E), Nicole Parganos (E&E), Ladan Alomar (Co-Chair), Mark Kilmer (Co-Chair). See sign-in sheet for others and details.

Agenda Item: WELCOME

Presenter: Ladan Alomar & Mark Kilmer (Co-chairs)

Summary of Discussion:

The committee Co-chairs introduced themselves and welcomed participants.

Agenda Item: AGENDA/ PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Presenter: Kevin Millington (DOS)

Summary of Discussion:

DOS provided an introduction to the NY Rising Communities program and the steps involved in communities developing their resiliency plans. The goals and agenda of the meeting were covered. Attendees introduced themselves after which DOS described the roles of NYSDOS, E&E, Co-Chairs, and Committee members.

Action Item

Committee members review transcribed sign-in sheet at end of minutes and provide missing contact information

Agenda Item: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Presenter: Amy Mahl

Summary of Discussion:

E & E described their role in assisting the community in more detail

- A programmatic approach exists at the state level; E & E will facilitate implementation of the planning process and development of the community resiliency plan.
- Through input of the committee, E&E's role is to understand the program elements and create a plan that represents the community's vision, assets, needs and opportunities, and prioritized project with an implementation strategy to provide justification for funding. Currently, each community is eligible for

\$3 million with expectations that additional funding will become available through the Rising Communities program as well as other sources. The plan should provide justification for projects in the short and long term.

Discussion of Planning Committee Responsibilities

- Each meeting will have a specific agenda with discrete items to be addressed by the Committee so that E & E can write sections of the plan.
- Assets, projects, etc. will need to be identified by the Committee. E & E will take the committee’s input along with existing planning documents and work them into the current plan.

Agenda Item: EXISTING PLANS

Presenter: Amy Mahl

Summary of Discussion:

- Review of preliminary list of plans that E & E has identified. Additional input requested from committee to determine if other plans exist. Input from committee included:
 - Town of Amsterdam – Comprehensive Plan (E &E needs hard copy)
 - Town of Florida - Comprehensive Plan
 - Two brownfield opportunity act studies – waterfront heritage area in Phase 1, and northeast quadrant of the city also in Phase 1 (DOS has hard copies)
- Montgomery County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (E &E needs hard copy)
- Emergency Response Strategic Plan – Greater Amsterdam School District has a copy

Action Items

Person Responsible

Due Date

Committee Members to send plans to

Committee Members

10/8/13

E & E ASAP

Agenda Item: GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE & ASSETS

Presenter: Amy Mahl (E&E)

Summary of Discussion:

Geographic Scope

- Proposed geographic scope presented – 500 yr flood plain + ¼ mile buffer. Committee members prefer to use a topographic (elevation based) buffer, rather than a distance. E & E to revise map according to the comments receive (below).
- Committee comments on project study area:
 - Most Native American settlements years ago lived up on the hills and not in the valley because of flooding. Low lying areas are vulnerable.

- Extend geographic area 5-10 miles north of the city on route 30 to include the Memorial campus of St. Mary's and residential development areas.
- Some key tributaries like South Chuctanunda creek are flood prone. Study area needs to extend buffer south of the city.
- In Port Jackson the heart of the hamlet floods significantly and this is not indicated at all on the green shaded area of the map. (This is because these tributaries are not currently mapped by FEMA) Area needs to include Port Jackson.
- The western boundary of Town of Florida should be included due to flooding of the Schoharie Creek; Route 161 washed out and a bridge came down. Residential properties on Route 161 along the creek were washed out during the flood.
- Reduce about half of the buffer thickness between the City of Amsterdam and Town of Amsterdam boundary, but the Town of Fort Johnson needs to remain in the project area.
- Uncontrolled releases from the Hinckley or Schoharie (Gilboa dam) Reservoirs would cause flooding even though they are outside the plan's geographic area.
- Specific tributaries to include: Schoharie, Chuctanunda, Dove, Willow, and Bunn Creek, and Evan's and Eva's Kill.

Community Assets

- A draft map/ listing of assets was presented to the Committee.
- Asset Categories: Housing, Infrastructure, Community Planning and Capacity Building (emergency services, routes, schools), natural and cultural resources (open spaces, heritage), Vulnerable populations are (elderly, poverty, children, hospitals), Economic Development, (Communication Systems)
- Several dams down from the Chuctanunda Creek need assessment and possible action.
- Kellogg Dam where Pioneer Mills used to be is at risk. Dam is technically owned by a private property and needs repairs but the property owner hasn't undertaken them.
- Retaining walls on both sides of St. Mary's hospital are at a risk for collapse. If they do, the debris could block Dove Creek and cause flooding upstream. This could then debilitate the hospital utility systems in the basement.
- Does the hospital have a hazard vulnerability assessment report or any planning for emergencies? Yes
- Almost every sewage treatment plan is built on the floodplain
- Transportation: When thruway is blocked, Thruway Authority diverts traffic onto routes 5 and 67 which overwhelms the communities- a lot of lack of communication.
- National Grid representation may be helpful. Transformers on the floodplain and piers were wiped out. Some were relocated. What other equipment is in the floodplain?

Action Items

Person Responsible

Due Date

Committee Members to send ideas of additional assets

Committee Members

10/8/13

Summary of Discussion:

Public Outreach

- Committee needs to develop a public outreach strategy for upcoming meetings.
- Required to have two public events by November 10th. First will be an introduction, review of existing plans, current projects, etc.
- Second meeting will provide a public review of the conceptual plan.
- Advertising methods to include WCSS Radio, The Recorder, recordernews.com, The Daily Gazette, community board, and DOS website- stormrecovery.ny.gov. Bob from Mayor Thane's office has a complete list.
- Consider requesting attendance by local newspaper at next committee meeting to get press attention.
- Also consider opportunities to reach out to groups who cannot get to meetings.
- All committee meetings are technically open to the public- so they can provide remarks at the end of each meeting if they want to.

Decision/Motions/Votes:

Public Outreach Meetings:

First public outreach meeting will be held October 10th in Amsterdam Middle School Cafeteria, second on October 22nd at Florida Town Hall. Both will start at 7PM. Committee members will help arrange logistics.

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Committee meetings will be held bi-weekly for at least September and October on Tuesdays at 9AM alternating between the Chamber of Commerce and Centro Civico locations. The next meeting will be on October 8, 2013 at Centro Civico.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Arrange committee and public outreach meeting spaces/logistics	Committee Members	ASAP
Prepare and advertise for meetings	E & E w/committee members	ASAP

Sign in Sheet

Name	Role	Affiliation	Phone	Email	Mailing Address	Present at Meeting
Sarah Crowell	State Regional Lead	NYSDOS	(518) 473-4495	sarah.crowell@dos.ny.gov	NYS DOS 99 Washington Ave Albany NY 12231	X
Kevin Millington	State Planner	NYSDOS	(518) 473-2479	kevin.millington@dos.ny.gov	NYS DOS 99 Washington Ave Albany NY 12231	X
John Wimbush	State Planner	NYSDOS	(518) 486-3108	john.wimbush@dos.ny.gov	NYS DOS 99 Washington Ave Albany NY 12231	X
Mark Kilmer	Co-Chair	Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce	(518) 725-0641	president@fultonmontgomeryny.org		
Ladan Alomar	Co-Chair	Centro Civico	(518) 842-3762 x 220	lalomar@centrocivico.org		X
Ann Thane	Committee Member	Mayor of Amsterdam		athane@amsterdamny.gov		
Tom DiMezza	Committee Member		518-857-0366	tdimezza@gmail.com	283 Manny's Cors. Road Amsterdam NY 12010	X
Rich Liberti	Committee Member	City of Amsterdam Fire Department	(518) 843-3556	Rliberti@amsterdamfd.com	10 Guy Par Ave Ext Amsterdam NY 12010	X
Robert von Hasseln	Committee Member	City of Amsterdam Dept. of Community & Economic Dev.	(518) 841-4323	rvonhasseln@amsterdamny.gov	61 Church Street Amsterdam NY 12010	X
Dan Weaver	Committee Member	Lives in Town of Florida and has business in City of Amsterdam	(518) 842-7504	danieltweaver@gmail.com	The Book Hound 16 Main Street Amsterdam NY 12010	X

Name	Role	Affiliation	Phone	Email	Mailing Address	Present at Meeting
Brent Phettplace	Committee Member	Village of Hageman, Real Estate Broker	(518) 441-5473	brent@judithannreality.com	179 Hagamar Ave Amsterdam NY 12010	X
Keith Kazala	Committee Member	NYS DOT	(518) 842-6204	Keith.kazala@dot.ny.gov kazalam@nycap.rr.com	199 Pioneer Street Amsterdam NY 12010	
Dustin Swanger	Committee Member	FMCC	518 -736 -3622	Dustin.swanger@fmcc.suny.edu	2805 State Hwy 67 Johnstown, NY 12085	X
Ken Rose	Committee Member	Montgomery Co Planning	() - -	krose@co.montgomery.ny.us		X
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Kenneth Walter	Committee Member		518-843-4907	Kwalter-fj@nycap.rr.com		