

NEW YORK RISING COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
City of Amsterdam-Town of Amsterdam-Town of Florida Public Meeting
November 16, 2013 - Florida Town Hall

DRAFT SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Economic Development

Town of Florida:

- Agriculture is huge in our towns. If programs and strategies don't address agricultural issues, we will lose out on their continued business. If their business leaves, they're not adding to our economic community, we'll all suffer and our communities will shrink which will impact other funding opportunities, etc.

City of Amsterdam:

- Work with local colleges and high schools to develop training in the area of entry-level human services, health care, to support the needs of the disabled and elderly.
- Better utilize and maintain the Northern Brownfield Opportunity Areas.

Infrastructure

Town of Florida:

- Construct a retaining wall on the east side of the Schoharie Crossing to prevent the flooding of the Hamlet of Fort Hunter.
- Replace 8" corrugated metal culverts with larger, concrete culverts to allow debris to flow through and preventing water backing up.
- Terwillager Creek floods Pattersonville Road and Hutchinson Road even though culverts replaced twice.
- Flooding on Sulfur Springs Road, Hartman Road, Burtonville Road, McKinney Road, Bulls Head Road, and Chapman Road continues to impact private property.

City of Amsterdam:

- West Main Street requires improved drainage and reconstructing the road.
- Relocate the power supply/stations away from high risk areas thereby reducing the need for emergency response crews.
- The AMTRAK Station should be relocated. It would improve stormwater, noise, and access for senior citizens. Improved access would enable people to drive up into the park from the west.

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- The Amtrak station best serves the public in its current location. It is easily accessible and patrolled by City County and State police.

Health/Social

- Greenways, trails and other “aesthetic” initiatives aid in bringing in more people and increasing their awareness; of the area, issues, projects, programs, etc. With this type of knowledge they may take more interest in what’s going on spreading the word and becoming more involved. This could be in the form of attending volunteer initiatives to help clean up the areas they use, supporting businesses that support or border that area.
- Please keep in mind that there are “degrees of accessibility.” When making improvements to stormwater and other initiatives, be aware that disabilities differ, isolation of accessible areas is not good, and accessible bathrooms are needed.
- Love the idea of parks and green space, but you must ensure complete accessibility. Boardwalks for wheelchairs, truly accessible playgrounds that allow children with disabilities to actually interact and play with children who are not disabled.

Town of Florida:

- There are no medical facilities on south side of river.
- The south side of the Mohawk River needs ER services which could be placed on the hill.
- A community center which would function as an evacuation point, food bank, emergency medical center, while providing a location for indoor recreation is needed on the south side of the Mohawk River.

City of Amsterdam:

- It is extremely important to allow for students and adults to have opportunities to expand their knowledge, especially when it comes to their communities. If people are connected to their community and gain knowledge and experience, they are more likely to give back (in many ways) and remain connected. Maintaining the connection with these people will help with sustainability and improvement of our communities.

Housing

- Strategies listed for housing are good but your “Best Practice Strategies” should be evidence-based.

Community Planning/Building

- Excellent point on the County Office Building (moving it out of the floodplain).
- Utilization of local sources such as FMCC for development, training, seniors, housing personnel, emergency responders, implementation.
- There was limited social network technology utilized during the storms. Outreach to the Hispanic community should be emphasized at a minimum through neighborhood watch groups.
- Create an inventory of impacted properties and develop a land bank.
- Improved community coordination of services/community planning and housing is needed.
- This is a socialist-communist agenda prompted by Gov. Cuomo and President Obama via UN Agenda 21. The goal is to confiscate properties, control of economy, education and the experiment.
- Very little advanced planning occurred during Hurricane Irene. The flooding and resulting damage could have been drastically reduced if Gilboa Dam had reduced its head and had the Mohawk River been let out in order to handle the surge of water from the storm. What if Gilboa Dam had a 2nd route to send their water/another reservoir for emergency situations?
- Study river characteristics for impending emergencies. How can the gates at the locks operate more efficiently? What happens if the Gilboa Dam breaks?
- We are going to have more of these storms and we can't just keep rebuilding over and over. If we have a process of properly managing the water, we can greatly reduce the impact.
- If we spend the money to fix where the problem starts, we won't have to spend money to keep "re-fixing" everything that gets destroyed over and over again. Fix the problem.
- Better management of the Mohawk River waters is needed. If a storm is coming just empty the waters in the locks. The Thruway is in charge of these waters and they can do a better job.
- Why do we have people in charge of our dams and canal systems who don't know anything about the systems and don't live in the areas where they are in charge?

Why is our Governor appointing people with no experience to oversee such important jobs?

Natural and Cultural

- Consider emergency space for collection and storage of artifacts and historic items be combined with an alternate space usage such as a museum, community center. With projects like these what about partnering with other nonprofit agencies and groups focused on community improvement.
- Fix the Mohawk River and flooded areas.
- The Schoharie Creek and Mohawk River need to be dredged.
- Dredge and clean out debris from our creeks and rivers. These actions will help to stop some of the problems to begin with.
- Remove the large tree and stump from along Schoharie Creek left by flood.

Transportation

Town of Amsterdam:

- Create a bike path along the Chuctanunda Creek from Haganan to Shuttleworth Park (Amsterdam Mohawks Baseball Stadium). Combine this project with repair of the dam at the northern end of Pioneer Street. Use the opportunity to rehabilitate and restart the hydroelectric turbine at the dam.
- Connect FMCC, Amsterdam, Johnstown, etc. to a busing or train system.
- Use the redevelopment opportunity to open the area up for future growth and opportunity?
- Expand the existing bike trail and make it universally accessible.

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