



NYRCR Rye Public Engagement #2 Summary

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Time: 7 pm – 9 pm

Location: Rye Reading Room, 1051 Boston Post Road

Description

This was the second public engagement event for the Rye NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Committee. The meeting was designed to present residents with an understanding of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program and a summary of work done to date, and to gather their input on Rye's Needs, Opportunities, and potential Strategies for long term resilience. Approximately 25 residents attended and participated in the event.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Presentation
 - a. NYRCR Overview
 - b. Work to Date
 - c. What's to Come
3. Table Stations by Recovery Support Function for Community Feedback
4. Event Report Back

Meeting Summary in Brief

Residents trickled in from 7pm to 7:15pm. The Committee Members introduced themselves and the Consultant team, then handed the presentation over to the Consultant team for a 20 minute presentation. Following the presentation, there was a brief Q&A , after which residents visited different stations representing each Recovery Support Function, and participated in discussions with Committee Members, GOSR staff, and the Consultant team. Feedback was given orally to Committee members, Consultant team members, and GOSR staff, and recorded on Community Comment Cards. After most of the community members left, Committee members, Consultant team members, GOSR staff, and the remaining community members participated in a "report back," describing the feedback each person had received.

This Document

All of the written and oral feedback from people who attended the meeting is documented on the subsequent pages. The comments provide insight into what is important to the community and gives us rich qualitative input that can be integrated into the final Community Reconstruction Plan. The feedback has been organized by Recovery Support Function station.

A number of meeting attendees were from the Milton Harbor House development, primarily voiced their concerns about the repeated flooding near Milton Harbor and the need to improve post-storm assistance in Rye. Additionally, Rye residents in the Beaver Swamp Brook neighborhood discussed their concerns with developments and projects in the neighboring Town of Harrison that exacerbate flooding issues in their neighborhood.

Housing

Needs

- Stop the flooding at Milton Harbor House that is due to city easement pipe overload during storms/high tide
- Stop Milton Road flooding that occurs from the illegal sump pumps that overburden the Disbrow Park valves (making the road impassable for emergency vehicles)
- Stop flooding at Milton Harbor House

Opportunities

- Additional pipe on the northeast corner of the site to handle “city” water, leaving existing pipe to handle Milton Harbor House water (this was done at southeast corner of property with great results)

Strategies

- Subsidize house elevations

Economic Development

Needs

-

Opportunities

-

Strategies

-

Community Planning & Capacity Building

Needs

- Stop to new wetland-fill projects in Town of Harrison that exacerbate flooding in Rye
- Increased communication with residents (particularly vulnerable populations) before storms
- Faster recovery for vulnerable populations after storms
- Emergency overnight shelters for duration of utility outages

Opportunities

- Communication with the Town of Harrison
- Identify “good” contractors for post-storm reconstruction – the ones that worked with Milton Harbor House post-Sandy were good.

Strategies

- Structured communication with the Town of Harrison
- Temporary “storm relief”
 - High ground parking, overnight shelters, places for hot meals

Natural & Cultural Resources

Needs

- Nursery Field flooding abated

Opportunities

- Revisit Nursery Field plans and see if the field exacerbates flooding in truth or perception only

Strategies

- Alter Nursery Field to mitigate flooding

Health & Social Services

Needs

- Better flood retention on school properties
- Emergency supplies for residents following a storm, enabling them to stay home even without power (candles, non-perishable foods, etc)
- Communication channels during storms

Opportunities

- School facilities can mitigate field flooding and surrounding area flooding
- Make information available to residents pre-storm about what supplies would be useful to have on hand immediately following a storm

Strategies

- Coordinate with schools

Infrastructure

Needs

- Park Avenue bridge is blocked
- Dredge Beaver Brook Swamp
- Facilitate flow of water through the drains on Milton Road
- Quicker utility return to service
- Less stormwater going into sewer systems
- Existing drain pipe inventory
- Accurate maps
- Less street flooding
- Less sewer overflow

Opportunities

- Clear Park Avenue bridge
- Work with Mamaroneck & Harrison
- Dredge Blind Brook
- Catchment at Airport
- Diversion at Airport
- Clean the drains on Milton Road
- Provide better stormwater management

Strategies

- Brook dredging from Mamaroneck Harbor to Rye that used to be done every year, but not since 1978
- Stop Harrison from adding to Project Home Run
- Get rid of illegal storm/sewer line connections
- Dredge the brook – please explain the +/- of this, it seems obvious as a catchment strategy

Other Comments

Milton Harbor House did a good job communicating to residents before the big storms. Residents were able to move their cars and leave their homes before the roads became impassable. Residents expressed that they would rather stay home, however, so would prefer that roads were improved to stay operational even during storms/flooding.

Several residents were interested in the possibility of dredging the Harbor or one of the Brooks.

Issues surrounding economic development were not mentioned by any community members during Public Engagement Event #2.