



# Meeting Notes

## Committee Meeting

September 23, 2014 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Town of Wallkill Town Hall, Building A, Wallkill, NY

### Attendance:

#### Town of Wallkill Committee:

Robert Beemer  
Sal Lucido  
Neil Meyer  
Frank Losauro

#### New York State Dept. of State:

Lisa Melville

#### Tetra Tech, Inc.:

Emily Slotnick  
Susan Roth

#### Public:

Jim Burtis, City of Middletown NY  
Rising Committee Co-Chair.

Agenda Item: Welcome/Meetings and Plan Update

Presenter: Tetra Tech/Slotnick

### Summary of Discussion:

1. Emily Slotnick welcomed the committee to the meeting. Today's public guest was Jim Burtis, Co-Chair of the City of Middletown NY Rising committee. Jim discussed his committee's thoughts on projects that would benefit the Town of Wallkill and the City of Middletown. He provided the committee with maps that illustrated the preliminary list of projects that Middletown is considering.
2. Neil Meyer reported that he was at the City of Middletown's NYRCR committee meeting held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, and they look forward to discussing mutually beneficial projects.
3. The meeting notes from September 10 were approved by the committee.
4. The List of Resiliency Strategies was submitted on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
5. The List of Projects is due October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the first draft of the plan due on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The discussion of this meeting will focus on potential projects.
6. Public Engagement Meeting #3 is tentatively set for November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Town Hall. Depending on the need, there may be a Committee meeting before the Public Engagement Meeting #3. It will be confirmed closer to the meeting.
7. Caitlin Kelly, Tetra Tech's emergency management lead for NYRCR will be meeting with the County Office of Emergency Management on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Neil Myer indicated that he would be attending that meeting and invited other committee members to attend.
8. The next committee meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM and will include a planning consultant who will offer insight on potential projects that include zoning code or local ordinance amendments.

Action Items: NA

Person Responsible:

Due Date:

## Summary of Discussion:

1. The purpose of this meeting is to determine which projects will be submitted with the first project list deliverable and later be described more fully in the first draft plan. The list will be amended if necessary as new information becomes available, whether it is new information from the HEC/RAS team, from the OEM meeting planned on the 29<sup>th</sup>, or from other sources. It is important to have this list as finished as possible by the due date.
2. The following projects were discussed as potential joint projects that would benefit the Town of Wallkill and the City of Middletown:
  - The committee discussed the potential of the creation of flood storage on a site that was used as a parking lot for the former Psychiatric center. The storage area would benefit the Town of Wallkill and the City of Middletown. The committee also discussed the potential of expanding this area of contiguous wetlands on adjacent vacant property.
  - The committee discussed a potential joint project between Middletown and the Town of Wallkill of creating a community recreation center at the old Psych center, with the idea that it could also be used for an emergency shelter for both communities.
  - The committee discussed potential projects on Frederick's Farm, which could be donated to the Town of Wallkill in perpetuity. It is a black dirt property. The property could be used as storage, to create a community garden, and parts of it could be given back to the floodplain. A community garden could also be a joint project between the Town of Wallkill and the City of Middletown.
  - The committee discussed the merits of redesigning and reinforcing drainage channels between SR 211 and Shoprite Plaza. The HEC/RAS team indicated that channel daylighting would reduce flooding in the area. This area drains into Silver Lake. Redesign of this area would help with flooding on roads in both communities.
3. The following infrastructure improvement projects were discussed:
  - There is a transformer near the Breaside Treatment plant that could be moved out of the floodplain.
  - The committee discussed the need to reduce constriction and improve storm water management in the Winding Brook Flood Plain. The Town of Wallkill is currently replacing some of the infrastructure there because of the need to protect utility lines. Roughly 5 culverts need to be repaired. More details on the scope of work for this area will be provided by the HEC RAS team in the coming week.
  - There were a number of town roads that were discussed at the meeting that need repair or improvement because of past flood damage.
  - One of the committee member provided information about solar roadways that could eliminate the need for plowing.
4. The following economic development projects were discussed:

- Marketing and outreach for community identity was discussed as a way to increase the economic base and create a community sense of place. This would be a small project, and the result would likely be a pamphlet that goes out to realtors and new residents. Tetra Tech could bring in a specialist to discuss if the committee wanted to move forward with this project.
  - Creating “A taste of Wallkill” as a project was discussed as a way to increase economic resiliency. It could include local restaurants and the farming community, and could be modeled after other “Restaurant Weeks” in NYC, New Paltz, and other locations.
  - Installing emergency resiliency measures and streetscape improvements in the hamlet center of Circleville was discussed as a project as a way to increase economic resiliency. There may be an opportunity to create a shelter at the Circleville fire station.
5. The following emergency preparedness projects were discussed:
- The need for emergency planning and preparedness was discussed in terms of creating a comprehensive strategy for the residents of Wallkill. This includes the need to inform the public where to evacuate if necessary.
  - There is a need to further develop an early warning system through a reverse 911 call, which could be coordinated through the five school districts existing calling systems.
  - The need for backup power at traffic lights was also discussed. An alternative would be to provide hookups for portable generators. The need for generators at critical facilities can be addressed by code if necessary.
  - The coordination of private dam releases is still a priority. Silver lake residents are concerned about the look of the lake if water is released.
6. Outreach/Education: There was discussion about the need to create a program to address illegal hookups of sump pumps to the sanitary sewer. The committee discussed the merits of this program and methods of implementation including education, incentives, and regulations.
7. Policy: The committee discussed the potential of reviewing local codes and ordinances. The comprehensive plan was just updated, but was not approved by the Town Board. Zoning recommendations from that plan have not been implemented. There are several policy actions that could increase resiliency: strengthening neighborhood centers, instituting design guidelines, creating programs to protect streams, and strengthening local floodplain management ordinances.
8. A project providing private dam maintenance assistance was taken off the list, because of its narrow focus. Reinforcing and redesign of drainage channels near Mt. Hope Road and Pocatello road were taken off preferred list because it only benefits a few homes.
9. The committee was invited to review and refine the list via email prior to the next meeting. They are to submit their comments to Emily Slotnick.

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

Action Items: N.A. Person Responsible: Due Date: .....

End of Meeting Notes