

TOWN BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
December 14, 2017
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilpersons: Kevin Armstrong, Leonard Govern, Patricia Wood, Supervisor Charles Gregory, and Town Clerk Ronda Williams

OTHERS PRESENT:

Village Trustees: Dave Breese, Teresa O’Leary, Ed Sehen, Mayor Snow, Village Clerk Jody Brown, Gale Sheradin, Paul Eskeli, Steve Dutcher, Bruce Dolph, Graydon Dutcher, Everett Farrell, Walter Geidel, Dean Frazier, Carl Fancher, Sean Leddy, Lora Casimano, David Barringer, Bill Willis, Ben Dates

This was a joint meeting between the Town and Village of Walton and Soil and Water Conservation District, held at Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation 44 West Street, Walton, NY 13856.

Graydon Dutcher opened the informational meeting providing a recap since the last meeting and stated the Town and Village will lead on the implantation of projects, this will not be a top down approach.

Mr. Dutcher stated the purpose of this meeting was to have both boards accept the reports as presented and start the implantation of the projects. This will provide for the Town and Village to go through the SEQR process at their next board meeting.

Mr. Dutcher then turned the meeting over to Dave Murphy, P.E., CFM of Milone & MacBroom, Inc. who proceeded with a power point slide show starting with East Brook. The power point showed and explained the existing conditions on East Brook for the 100 years and 10-year flood. Walter Geidel questioned whether this took into consideration of backwater due to stream debris, and the answer was no.

Mr. Murphy explained that options: included bridge replacements, building removals or relocations to allow for building flood plain areas. He stated all options do not need to be done for there to be improvement. Just the replacement of the bridges would certainly have a positive outcome for the Townsend School.

Mayor Snow stated if a homeowner was not in agreement, then the home would not be removed. Mr. Murphy agreed, saying you could always move on to another area and possible re-address at a later time.

If all the options were in place, the model for flood reduction showed a ranged from 1 to 3 feet of flood reduction along East Brook.

Mr. Murphy then moved onto West Brook, and once again showed the benefits of the mitigation options. If the plan to replace bridges and with the removal of certain homes, there was clearly a reduction in flood levels.

Mr. Murphy explained the replacement of the Mead Street bridge would save a lot of damages to houses on Liberty Street. Mr. Dutcher added the development of areas where debris could go versus blocking bridges would provide the homeowners with a huge benefit as well.

Mr. Murphy then moved onto the Third Brook analysis. He explained that although the 100-year flood shows the water contained in the channels, we know this not to be the case with the data we have from actual events.

Supervisor Gregory stated this has been a problem and we now have the hard data to prove it and will use this information to hopefully move up the NYSDOT replacement of the Third Brook bridge which is currently set for 2022.

Mr. Dutcher stated the biggest impact to the reduction of flood levels would be the replacement of that bridge.

Trustee Breeze questioned if Kraft would still receive water. Mr. Murphy stated yes.

They considered the suggestion of branching off Third Brook to run along the old railroad bed parallel to Prospect Avenue but there was no large benefit there.

With the conclusion of the power point, the Mr. Murphy provided a recap of the following suggestions moving forward; Proceed with the implantation of the alternatives, future bridge replacement, floodproofing commercial buildings, elevation of homes, and acquisition of floodplain projects.

Supervisor Gregory informed everyone that we are very close to getting both flood gauges up and running and thanked Graydon and Steve Dutcher for their time and determination in the matter.

Mr. Dutcher clarified that USGS installed the gauges on their time, and when it was convenient for them to get into the stream.

Mr. Dutcher reminded everyone that these documents provide short term and long-term goals and when the community is ready to move forward, each municipality will be ready to act.

Supervisor Gregory stated part of the process was to involve the community by inviting them to walk the tributaries and show how the recommendations will work and benefit the community. Trustee Sehen questioned if everyone was cooperative? Supervisor Gregory stated yes for the most part, but some were not.

Mr. Murphy stated in his opinion the FEMA buyout process of picking a house here or there was not the right approach, as it needs to be a benefit to the community without shrinking the tax-base.

The Mayor stated residents within the Village of Walton could move to the new proposed condo area off West Street. Supervisor Gregory explained that the “flood plain relocation” did not necessarily mean physically moving a house from one location to another. It could mean demolishing a house in the flood plain and building a new house outside the flood plain.

Trustee Breeze questioned whether there were still places in the village where houses could be built. Mr. Dutcher explained there were numerous vacant lots around the village and that he has spoken to some of the property owners to gauge their interest. Supervisor Gregory added that the Robinson property on Fancher Avenue, near the cemetery might be a location to consider as well as Kaiser Field adjacent to Cherry Street.

Councilwoman Wood questioned if they could purchase already built homes or does it have to be a relocation of a new home to a vacant lot? Mr. Murphy stated yes, it could be to an already built home, that will be up to the municipality.

Supervisor Gregory at this time 7:10 p.m. called the Town Board meeting to order.

RESOLUTION NO 154
TITLE: ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMENDED LOCAL FLOOD ANALYSIS FOR THE
WEST BRANCH OF THE DELAWARE RIVER IN WALTON

WHEREAS, the Town and Village of Walton have experienced extensive flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Village came together to form the Walton Flood Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Walton Flood Commission, as authorized by the municipalities, utilized grant funding received by the municipalities from the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District's Stream Management Implementation Program, that is funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, to complete a Local Flood Analysis; and

WHEREAS, The Walton Flood Commission guided and assisted Malone & McBroom, Inc., in gathering information and preparing a Local Flood Analysis for the West Branch of the Delaware River; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Walton is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input on the Local Flood Analysis and the actions proposed in that Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Walton Town Board has reviewed the analysis and understands that a comparable analysis is to begin for the three tributaries and that the combined plans will be adopted by the Village and Town when they are finalized;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Walton Town Board that The Town of Walton accepts the amended Local Flood Analysis for the West Branch of the Delaware River as complete.

RESOLUTION #154 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AMENDED LOCAL FLOOD
ANALYSIS FOR THE WEST BRANCH OF THE
DELAWARE RIVER IN WALTON

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood approving the Amended Local Flood Analysis for the West Branch of the Delaware River. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO 155
TITLE: ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOCAL FLOOD ANALYSIS FOR THE EAST
BROOK, WEST BROOK, AND THIRD BROOK OF THE VILLAGE AND TOWN OF
WALTON, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the Town and Village of Walton have experienced extensive flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Village came together to form the Walton Flood Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Walton Flood Commission, as authorized by the municipalities, utilized grant funding received by the municipalities from the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District's Stream Management Implementation Program, that is funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, to complete a Local Flood Analysis; and

WHEREAS, The Walton Flood Commission guided and assisted Malone & McBroom, Inc., in gathering information and preparing a Local Flood Analysis for the East Brook, West Brook, and Third Brook in the village and town of Walton; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Walton is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input on the Local Flood Analysis and the actions proposed in that Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Walton Town Board has reviewed the analysis and understands the analysis of the three tributaries;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Walton Town Board that The Town of Walton accepts the Local Flood Analysis for the East Brook, West Brook, and Third Brook in the Town and Village of Walton as complete.

RESOLUTION #155

ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOCAL FLOOD ANALYSIS FOR THE EAST BROOK, WEST BROOK, AND THIRD BROOK OF THE VILLAGE AND TOWN OF WALTON, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK

A motion was made by Councilman Armstrong, seconded by Wood approving the Local Flood Analysis for the East Brook, West Brook, and Third Brook in the Town and Village of Walton. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Williams
Town Clerk