

**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Middlesex Library
Middlesex Boro

DRAFT

DATE: January 4, 2012

MEETING CONVENED: 7:30PM

NOTE:

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided informing the public of time and place according to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ted Bassman . Scotch Plains	Alice Tempel . South Plainfield
John Sweeney . Middlesex	Jim Koch . Public (Martinsville)
Frank McArdle . No Plainfield	Frank Verga - USACE
Richard O'Connor . Engineer, GBFCC	Carey Pilato, Bound Brook, Mayor
George Ververides. Middlesex Cty Planning	Christine Johnson . Middlesex
Bill Crosby . No Plainfield	Henry Kita . Watchung
Joe Skupien . Somerset County	Phyllis Gentile . Middlesex
Paul Leso . Union Cty Engineering	Tom Forsythe . Bridgewater
John L Madden . Middlesex	Bud Clede - Middlesex
John Gayeshi . Bound Brook	

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Bassman stated there were no items of correspondence received by the GBFCC for the month of December. The GBFCC maintains a correspondence file that is available for inspection as may be necessary and upon request.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 12/07/11 meeting were approved as corrected. A copy of the approved minutes is available on the GBFCC website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Mr Murray, the Treasurer's report will be given at the next meeting.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

No report.

FINANCE REPORT

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Bassman spoke of the Congressional re-districting of Scotch Plains. Previously, it was Frank Pallone's responsibility and is now under Rush Holt. He also noted that Mr Holt is not familiar with the projects at hand.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Frank Verga of the USACE reported as follows:

On-Going Construction (Bound Brook)

Finderne Farms . The USACE is about to award the 60 year monitoring contract that will continue to develop conceptual plans for upgrades necessary for the site.

Segment U . Segment is complete. The USACE will be doing survey work due to the erosion issues along the floodwall levee. They expect to begin design work for the repairs as soon as possible.

Segment R1 . Segment is complete.

Talmage Ave Bridge . Segment is complete.

Segment R2 (Levee/Pump Station) . The project is 99% complete. The project is functional with minor modifications being done by the contractor (including drainage work, paving, & guide rails).

Segment R2 (Railroad Closure) . The closure gate is proceeding with the gate under fabrication. They expect the gate to be installed and activated in early spring. Diversion pipe # 3 is 100% functional. The remaining pipes are still under construction and will fall into place by summer 2012. The USACE is looking into a temporary closure plan with precautions such as an aqua barrier bag (filled with water to measure height & protection) and hope to have these activated soon.

South Main Street (Closure Gate) . The gate is 98% complete. The gate is functional and the contractor is cleaning up some punchlist items. A final inspection, training and closeout are expected by the end of January.

Segment T (Pump Station) . Pump station is 99% complete. Final punchlist items are being addressed and expect to have final inspection, training and closeout completed by the end January.

Segment T (Levee) . The USACE has completed the survey of the damaged area that resulted from Hurricane Irene. They have also completed design efforts so the contractor can start on the over-topping damages. They expect to modify the existing contract.

E. Street Closure Gate . The gate is complete and fully functional. They will be fixing seal and ball joint leaks that occurred during Hurricane Irene.

The USACE is continuing to compile an overall operation & maintenance manual. They will be working with the NJDEP and Somerset County for maintenance to obtain finalization.

(Middlesex/Green Brook)

Segment B-1 (Sebrings Mills) . The levee is near completion. The actual levee weir is near completion and the pump station is making good progress.

Downstream Floodwall . Clearing of the area has been completed. The contractor is obtaining final approvals for the USACE's engineering department. Floodwall construction is expected to commence in early February.

Bridge Raising . Pole relocations are almost complete. PSE&G has completed the re-wiring. Cable is currently in the process of re-wiring and Verizon will follow suit. The old poles will then be removed. Phase I has been initiated with E Green Brook Road officially closed for six (6) months. During that time, the bridge will have one lane closed to begin the upgrade work. As Phase II and III begin, there will always be 2 lanes open for traffic. They will minimize the amount of traffic stoppages due to work being done.

Non-structural Floodproofing . A draft report provided by the AE (who inspected various structures that would qualify) is under review by the USACE. When finalized, the USACE will contact homeowners to discuss alternatives and see if they are willing to participate.

Design Work

Segment B-2 (500 foot floodwall) . The USACE is working on design work that will connect onto Segment B1. They have completed the value engineering of the preliminary designs to see if there are potential savings or adjustment to take place. They expect to award the contract by late 2012. This will give protection to a 40 year level until future segments are built. Focus will then be on design work of B3 and B4 and construction to follow in the next fiscal year.

NJDEP

In Mr Slowinski's absence there was no report.

QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chairman Sweeney questioned if the construction on Segment B1 will be in the spring. Mr Verga noted that work is expected to begin in February (weather permitting).

Mr Sweeney also asked what the timeline will be. Mr Verga noted it will be approximately one (1) year for completion.

Mr Sweeney questioned when the initial bridge work will begin. Mr Verga indicated the contractor will be starting very soon.

Question . What is the status on the work that went from Bound Brook to Green Brook (Middlesex) to Bridgewater where six (6) homes were to be floodproofed? Mr Verga stated that he would provide information at a later time.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Jim Koch (Martinsville) . Can the upgrades to Finderne be explained? Mr Verga indicated that Finderne was completed six (6) years ago and the USACE has been monitoring the site annually. Since it is not performing as expected, they would like to make design adjustments in the area to enhance mitigation on that site.

Jim Koch (Martinsville) . What could be enhanced to eliminate the washout problems of past storm events? Mr Verga indicated that everyday life is not providingg enough water & not enough growth is happening. The environmental group feels that some subtle adjustments will enhance this and make it more viable and resistant to washouts..

Christine Johnson (Middlesex) . Will the main part of Green Brook Road be closed to commercial vehicles and how long will the shifting of traffic be? Mr Verga indicated that commercial vehicle traffic is not permitted and traffic shifting will take approximately 6 months. He added that 2 lanes of traffic will always be open during the construction.

Chairman Bassman thanked Middlesex Boro Library for the use of their facility and their continued support of the GBFCC.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn.

Listed are the GBFCC meeting dates:

2012

February – Dunellen (TBD)

March – North Plainfield

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:50 PM