

**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Middlesex

DRAFT

DATE: August 3, 2019

MEETING CONVENED: 9:30AM

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Raymond S. Murray . GBFCC Chairman
William Crosby . North Plainfield
Robert Greco . USACE NY District
Alek Petersen . USACE NY District
Paul Woska . Middlesex
John J. Sweeney - Middlesex
George Ververides -Middlesex Cty Planning

Jessica Dunne - Dunellen
Frank McArdle - North Plainfield
Janice Gould . Somerville
Theodore Bassman . Scotch Plains
Fredeswinda Nata - Middlesex
Amonda Johnson Timmons . Hillsborough
Patricia Newton . Middlesex

MINUTES

The minutes from the June 5, 2019 meeting were approved. A copy of the approved minutes is available on the GBFCC website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

All members have paid their bill for the year.

Three bills were presented to us to be paid:

- 1) Grotto Engineering, our consulting engineer
- 3) Tina Totten for mailing out our meeting notices
- 4) Winning Strategies, our consulting federal government relations firm

The bills have been reviewed and found to be in order. A motion was made to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Chairman Murray opening the meeting, welcomed those present and thanked them for being present. He then turned the meeting over to Legislative Chair and Master of Ceremonies McArdle, who presided over the service.

Commissioner McArdle thanked all present for keeping the commitment made more than four decades ago to gather annually and remember the lives lost, and continue to strive for the completion of meaningful flood control measures for the entire basin.

Commissioner McArdle remembered the lives lost 46 years ago; William Clark (age 57, Plainfield), Stephen Langhorne (age 15, North Plainfield), Richard Sciarretta (age 32, Bernardsville), Jerry Spinner (age 45, Warren), Keith Stewart (age 21, Warren) and Harry Timmons (age 30, Plainfield). The ceremony also remembered Mary Tharp (age 85) and her son John Tharp (age 58), who lost their lives September 17, 1999, during the Downtown flooding in Bound Brook, which was caused by Hurricane Floyd.

Commissioner McArdle concluded the ceremony by thanking all of the residents, Commissioners, and Federal, State and Local officials who have worked tirelessly for the Green Brook Flood Control Project. He especially thanked Founding Chairman Vernon Noble and his wife Shirley (Green Brook), former Chairman Joe Debler (Piscataway), former Vice-Chairman Marty Matuskiewicz (Middlesex), Former Vice-Chairman Larry Newcombe (Scotch Plains), former Commissioner Tony Addario (Watchung Councilman and Mayor), Middlesex County Freholder Director David Crabel, Senator Frank Lautenburg, and State Assemblyman and U.S. Congressman Bob Franks. He also fondly remembered Patricia Sweeney, wife of Vice-Chairman John Sweeney, for her support of the Commission.

Chairman Murray spoke of the ongoing construction efforts of the Army Corps in Middlesex Borough, and the Commission's efforts to try to maintain a steady funding level of \$30 Federal & \$10 million State. He noted the two biggest challenges to the project are funding and real estate acquisition.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - Robert Greco, Project Manager

Mr. Greco introduced Alek Petersen, who has been involved with the Green Brook project for many years, most recently as the Project Manager for the Validation Study of the Upper Basin. Mr. Petersen will be taking over as the Project Manager for the Green Brook Project later in August, as Mr. Greco will be transferring to Headquarters USACE, to work in the Operations and Maintenance program.

Chairman Murray welcomed Mr. Petersen as the full-time Project Manager and thanked Mr. Greco for his dedicated work on behalf of the people of the Green Brook sub-basin, and wished him well in his transfer to Headquarters.

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTIES

Middlesex County

Mr. Ververides pledged the continued commitment of Middlesex County to the project.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:20 AM

Upcoming 2019 GBFCC meeting dates:

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 – 7:30 PM

Scotch Plains

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 – 7:30 PM

Plainfield Public Library