

**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Middlesex

DATE: August 1, 2020

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
Alek Petersen . USACE NY District
Paul Woska . Middlesex
John J. Sweeney - Middlesex
Jessica Dunne - Dunellen
Janice Gould . Somerville

Theodore Bassman . Scotch Plains
Tom & Donna Butler . Martinsville
Amy Flood . Middlesex
Bud & Louise Crede . Middlesex
Harry & Janice Allen . North Plainfield
Shirley Penrose . Middlesex
Tony Cole - Middlesex

MINUTES

The minutes from the June 3, 2020 meeting were approved. A copy of the approved minutes is available on the GBFCC website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

All members except Union County 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 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.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS . Alek Petersen, Project Manager

Alek Petersen gave a brief overview of the ongoing construction and proposed upcoming segments in the Borough of Middlesex over the next few years. The Validation Study that was completed last year concluded that the improvements planned for the Upper Basina and the Stony Brook could not be justified. A director's Report, a 2-3 page report recommending a new General Revaluation Report for the Upper Basin and Stony Brook is presently in circulation within the Army Corps. This report would be distributed to Congress in support of additional funding for the project.

Chairman Murray spoke of the ongoing construction efforts of the Army Corps in Middlesex Borough, and the Commission's efforts to try to increase NJDEP funding to match the \$157 Million that is in the Federal budget. He noted the two biggest challenge to the project are funding and real estate acquisition.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Chairman Murray opening the meeting, welcomed those present and thanked them for being present. He remembered the lives lost in 1973 and 1999, and the need to continue to advocate for the completion of meaningful flood control measures for the entire basin.

Chairman Murray remembered the lives lost 47 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.

Chairman Murray 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 Freeholder Director David Crabel, Senator Frank Lautenburg, and State Assemblyman and U.S. Congressman Bob Franks. He also fondly remembered Kathy Crosby, wife of Commission Treasurer Bill Crosby and Patricia Sweeney, wife of Vice-Chairman John Sweeney, for their support of the Commission. He concluded by remembering Former North Plainfield Mayor and long-time Commission Legislative Chairman Frank McArdle, and re-iterated the Commission's commitment to see improvements to the Stony Brook and the Upper Basin be included in the completed project.

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

The question was raised regarding what happens if the State funding match does not reach the needed level. Mr. Murray noted that USACE will do its best to reserve and carry forward unused federal funding for the benefit of the Green Brook project.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:30 AM

Upcoming 2020 GBFCC meeting dates:

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 – 7:30 PM
Scotch Plains

Wednesday, December 4, 2020 – 7:30 PM
To Be Determined