

**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Middlesex

DATE: August 7, 2021

MEETING CONVENEED: 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:

Chair Raymond S. Murray . Green Brook
Treasurer William Crosby . No Plainfield
Mayor Brian C. Wahler . Piscataway
Alek Petersen . USACE NY District
Valerie Bogart . Somerset County
Joe Skupien . Somerset County
Paul Woska . Middlesex
Jessica Dunne . Dunellen

Harry Allen . North Plainfield
Theodore Bassman . Scotch Plains
Alice Tempel . South Plainfield
Tom & Donna Butler . Martinsville
Bud Crede . Middlesex
Shirley Penrose . Middlesex
Amanda (Timmons) Johnson . Hillsborough

MINUTES

The minutes from the April and June 2021 meetings were approved. A copy of the approved minutes are available on the GBFCC website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

All members except Plainfield and 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.

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 has been accepted by Headquarters. He also related the Congressman Tom Malinowski had toured the project two months ago.

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 \$30.9 Million in the current budget and \$30 Million in next year's budget. He noted the two biggest challenges to the project are funding and real estate acquisition.

Chairman Murray also related that a representatives of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) visited the project, along with members from Headquarters USACE and North Atlantic Division Office of USACE, to view the progress and discuss future funding.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Chairman Murray opening the Memorial Service, welcomed and thanked all 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 48 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 tireless 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 Crabiel Senator Frank Lautenburg, and State Assemblyman and U.S. Congressman Bob Franks. He noted the retirement of Middlesex County Planner George Vervadies, who served the Commission for many years during his 57 years of service to local government. He remembered Former North Plainfield Mayor and long-time Commission Legislative Chairman Frank McArdle. He concluded by fondly remembering Vice-Chairman John Sweeney, for his commitment to this project and to his community, through service with the Rescue Squad, Planning Board, and OLMV Church.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:30 AM

Upcoming 2021 GBFCC Zoom meeting dates:

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 7:30 PM