

**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Middlesex

DATE: August 6, 2022

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:

Chair Raymond S. Murray . Green Brook
Treasurer William Crosby . No Plainfield
Melonie Marano . Somerset Commissioner
Anthony Panzarino . Middlesex County
Mayor John Madden . Middlesex
Paul Woska . Middlesex
Harry Allen . North Plainfield
Mayor Brian C. Wahler . Piscataway
Gabrielle Cahill - Piscataway
Terri Briggs-Jones . Plainfield

Bill Picard . Scotch Plains
Alice Tempel . South Plainfield
Residents:
Matt Adams
Tom & Donna Butler . Martinsville
Louise Crede . Middlesex
Janice Allen . former North Plainfield Mayor
Sherley Penrose . Middlesex
Amanda (Timmons) Johnson . Hillsborough

MINUTES

The minutes were held to the October meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

All members except Plainfield have paid their assessment 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.

Chairman Murray spoke of the ongoing construction efforts of the Army Corps in Middlesex Borough. He commended the efforts of the Congressional delegation, especially those of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman, who was instrumental in getting a record funding appropriation of \$496 million included in disaster relief funding that followed Hurricane Ida. He noted that amount of funding should cover the entire design and construction bill for the Lower Basin and Stony Brook portions of the project. It remains to be determined if New Jersey would ultimately be held responsible for the repayment of their 25% of these costs.

Chairman Murray additionally noted the same disaster funding bill contained \$3.2 million for the re-study of the Upper Basin portion of the project, as USACE has determined it cannot be built as originally contemplated due to cost, current conditions and environmental constraints.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Following the regular business portion of the meeting, 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, which included; William Clark (age 57, Plainfield), Stephen Langhorne (age 15, North Plainfield), Richard Sciaretta (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 Chairmen Joe Debler (Piscataway) and Ted Bassman (Scotch Plains), who recently died suddenly; former Vice-Chairmen Marty Matuskiewicz (Middlesex), Larry Newcombe (Scotch Plains) and John Sweeney (Middlesex) and his wife Pat, who baked homemade treats for so many Commission meetings; former North Plainfield Mayor and long-time Commission Legislative Chairman Frank McArdle.

Also remembered were former Commissioner Tony Addario (Watchung Mayor), Middlesex County Freeholder Director David Crabiel Senator Frank Lautenburg, and State Assemblyman and U.S. Congressman Bob Franks.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:30 AM

Upcoming 2021 GBFCC Zoom meeting dates:

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 – 7:30 PM