

December 8, 2015

Notes from the Public Informational Meeting held Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:30 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: William B. Ferebee, Supervisor, Paul R. Martin, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Michael J. Buysse and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Also present were: Eric Sandbloom and his Design Team, 8 or 9 landowners adjoining Gulf Brook, Deb Whitson, Town Attorney, Gary Manley, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

Mr. Ferebee called the meeting to order explaining that tonight's meeting is to discuss Phase 2 of the Gulf Brook Restoration Project. He said the area involved includes the Bucks Lane Bridge downstream, including the Route 9N Bridge, to the AuSable River. He introduced and handed over the floor to Eric Sandbloom explaining that he was the Engineer heading this project.

Mr. Sandbloom began by introducing his design team. He gave a brief account as to what this phase of the rehabilitation would be. He spoke about the plan calling for a wider channel. He spoke of the problem with the increased amount of sediment and boulders under the Route 9N Bridge.

Evan Fitzgerald spoke on the watershed hydrology. He said that during Tropical Storm Irene there was 3,300 cubic feet of water per second coming down Gulf Brook. He talked about the water channel going from 45 feet wide down to 25 feet wide at the two bridges.

Steve Diglio spoke about the bridges and what options are available for improvement in handling an increased volume of water during weather events. He began with talking about the Bucks Lane Bridge, he gave three options, one is to do nothing, the second is to add a bypass culvert and the third option, the option they most recommend, would be replacement of the bridge. He explained if replacement is the final choice, the new bridge would be pre-cast plank. When questioned, he said a temporary pedestrian bridge would be put in place for the residents during construction.

Next, he gave the options for the Route 9N Bridge. He talked about dredging under the existing bridge to gain a higher profile. Again, he said the best recommendation they would make is to go to the State and ask to have that bridge replaced. He did, however, say that since that bridge is not very old the State probably would not replace it. He said the other options are to do nothing, to restore that bridge with a hydraulic opening or to add a bypass culvert. He said it may be most feasible to add a 16 foot wide culvert overflow.

The Gulf Brook Channel Improvement Project Evaluation Matrix which covers the bridge options reviewed by Mr. Diglio has been attached to and made a part of these notes.

Mr. Diglio went on to discuss the channel improvements between the bridges discussing walls being built along the Wells property and on both sides of the channel along the Sappah and the Library property just before the Route 9N Bridge. He said these walls would be limited in length and height as much as possible and would be similar to the type that has already been used upstream. He said the berm with trees behind the private properties along Route 9N will not be disturbed saying they already provide good protection.

Mr. Biesemeyer spoke about the need to maintain the channel and the possibility of getting DEC's permission to dredge.

Mr. Ferebee said that Phase 1 of the Gulf Brook Restoration Project was paid through a \$400,000 Grant through Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). He said Phase 2 of this Restoration Project will be paid with funds from New York Rising saying that \$4.5 Million has been allotted to the Town of Keene and said these funds will be administered through the County.

Kent Wells asked what the time frame of this project was.

Mr. Sandbloom answered that with permitting, etc. he didn't think construction would begin in 2016, saying it was more likely to be done in 2017.

Mr. Sandbloom said that they would be making some upstream recommendations which may not come to construction during this phase but they felt there are areas that need to be addressed to reduce the amount of sediment coming downstream.

This informational meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
December 15, 2015

William B. Ferebee, Supervisor
Paul R. Martin, Councilman
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Michael J. Buysse, Councilman
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman