



VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD

131 N. MAPLE AVENUE, RIDGEWOOD, NJ

Keith Kazmark

Village Manager

Village of Ridgewood

201-670-5500 x2202

kkazmark@ridgewoodnj.net

Residential Flood Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2025 – 4:00 pm

5th Floor Conference Room, Village Hall

Village Manager Keith Kazmark called the first meeting of the Residential Flood Advisory Committee to order at 4:00 pm. Members present: Christine Fleischmann, Laurie Howard, Joan Hubertus, Montserrat Limon, Gerald Maurer, Julianne Ofodile (via phone) and Barbara Sacks. Council Liaison Siobhan Winograd also was present. Mr. Kazmark began by explaining the purpose of this committee and the need for advocacy, especially with our elected leaders at the Federal and State levels. Councilmember Winograd welcomed everyone and discussed some of the meetings she has attended regarding flooding during her time on the Village Council. She further stressed two areas she would like to focus on: 1) addressing steps to prevent future flooding; 2) how we prepare for and respond when a flood does occur.

Members introduced themselves, shared their experiences with flooding, and their background.

Mr. Kazmark addressed the three successive flood event in 2023 into 2024. This followed multiple flood events dating back to 1999 with Hurricane Floyd. He also shared his experience with an Army Corps of Engineers project in Passaic County concerning the Peckman River. He addressed some of the needs along the Saddle River, the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook and with stormwater run-off in the Village. The committee also discussed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which was approved by Congress and signed by President Biden in late 2024. The bill authorized the study of both the Saddle River and Ho-Ho-Kus Brook in Ridgewood.

A conversation about in-house maintenance by Village Public Works and Parks Division staff ensued. Mr. Kazmark also discussed an allocation being requested for river/brook maintenance in the 2025 Village Capital Budget. The committee requested access to the GIS flood portal. It was also

discussed whether the portal could be reopened for additional submissions by residents should the need arise.

The committee discussed the structure of the committee, meeting dates/times and action items they would like to work on before the next meeting. It was decided that Wednesdays at 4:00 pm work for nearly all members. The next meeting will be in early March, and the date will be set based on the USACE's availability to participate. During future meetings, the structure of by-laws, including selecting a Chair for the committee, will be discussed. The committee also discussed that members and the public may attend future meetings via Zoom, which would allow for participation from the public during public comment.

Action Items:

- Circulate the stormwater ordinance recently adopted by the Village Council, along with the Green Ridgewood white paper on the ordinance revisions.
- Set up the next meeting to include the USACE.
- Provide a map of the locations that flood in the Village, possibly with directional flow indicated on the map.
- Invite Peter Affuso from the Village Engineering Department to the next meeting.
- Invite Neil Gallone from GIS to the next meeting to share flood portal submissions.
- Schedule a field trip for the committee to walk the Saddle River.

The meeting was then opened for Public Comment (3 minutes each speaker):

Leo Ruane, Ridgewood resident, spoke on the potential development of the Schedler property and the impact it may have on flooding in the area of the Saddle River.

The committee adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Kazmark
Village Manager