



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
22 Snug Harbor Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732
Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM

The August Report is as follows. All constructions dates are weather & supply-chain permitting:

- Construction Updates
 - **North St pump upgrades** – Elevated shed is completed. Waiting for a breaker panel to finish electric.
 - **Municipal Building** – Completed soil removal/fill/backfill; concrete slab has been poured; underground site conduits installed; block for the elevator and Sallyport installation is continuing.
 - **South Bay & Hillside Ave** - Work to started late August and be substantially complete in Oct/Nov.
 - **I-Bank large sanitary sewer project for Waterwitch Area Phase 1** - Work started 8/16.
 - **Twin Lights Terrace Gabion** –Work to start in September.
 - **Update Ederle Park** – Pre-construction meeting 8/15. Work to start in September.
 - **Snug Harbor Park Updates** - Playground area, basketball & tennis courts. Work to start in September.
- Projects for the Remainder 2022
 - **Waterwitch Pump Station** – Work to start in September. Prefab structure due in October
 - **Skate Park** - Construction Drawings submitted to CARFA in June, waiting for their ok to proceed.
 - **Jones Creek** – Working with the County for the East section [Snug Harbor].
 - **Marine PI Elevated Walkway West [Snug Harbor]** – CDBG grant \$179,000. Schedule: Bid opening is 9/1.
 - **171 Bay Ave EV Charging Station** – Waiting for BPU contract. DEP grant \$75,000 for 171 Bay Ave.
 - **Portland Road Guard Rail** – Waiting on the County to repair.
- Projects Planned 2023/2024
 - **Update Frank Hall Park** – Joint venture with the Open Space/Lions Club/Green Team looking for grants.
 - **Update Vets Park** - Plans are with Engineering. Local Recreation grant from DCA \$75,000.
 - **Create Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36]** - Plans are with Engineering.
 - **Marine PI Elevated walkway East [Sea Drift]** – CME looking for grants.
- Regionalization Update
 - **Public Question** with funding formula was agreed to by the 3 towns by 8/19.
 - **Cost Sharing Agreement** negotiations broke down 8/25 when the Boards of Education [BoEs] cancelled their joint meeting just hours before its scheduled start time of 6:00pm. Atlantic Highlands has 154 more students and \$183,339,300 in higher equalized value than Highlands. Also, AHES has \$1,005,000 in debt. HES has zero debt. We originally did not want any cost share but are open to negotiating. You can listen to the 5-25-22 BoEs' joint meeting here: <https://bit.ly/3pSXi1M> where the BoEs' experts continually say the BoEs do not set the cost share, the municipalities do the negotiations, review 32:20, 35:30, 2:12:20 & 2:13:10 - 2:15:35. The superintendent and according the Boards' lawyers, Highlands Board Members of both schools are insisting on a 50/50 cost share in perpetuity and that Highlands and Atlantic Highlands can only get out of the agreement if both Highlands and Atlantic Highlands' Councils approve it, no other option is acceptable to them.
- Grants/Funds Update – We were awarded \$771,518 so far this year.
 - The Borough has received a credit upgrade to AA from Standard & Poor's.
 - Received the Community Energy Planning Grant agreement [\$10,000] from BPU 8/30.
 - Grant awarded \$219,676 from Department of Defense for Veteran's Park Living Shoreline 8/31.
- Monmouth Hills Runoff
 - Met with NJ DEP on 8/29 to see if mitigating MH can be covered as a joint venture with FEMA funds.

Detail on long-term Projects

- **2019 Waterwitch and Bay Avenues Sanitary Project** Replace sanitary mains, laterals and paving.
 - **Phase 1:** the entirety of Waterwitch Ave [from R36 to Marine Place], North St, Gravelly Point Rd, Ralph St, William St, Ocean Ave, Central Ave, Beach Blvd, Linden Ave, Bay Ave. \$3,600,000 in grants and low interest loans from the I-Bank.
 - **Phase 2:** Snug Harbor Ave, Bedle Pl, Marine Pl, Washington Ave, Huddy Ave, Recreation Pl, Cheerful Pl, Barberie Ave, Sea Drift Ave. CME preparing I-Bank grant documents.
- **2021 Flood Mitigation Resiliency Plan** - This comprehensive plan targets four major areas. Each project can be constructed independently, and some will happen sooner than others due to complexity and funding.
 - **North Street Pump** Upgrade the electrical for the station, raise the equipment to BFE, and replace the old floats and upgrade the backflow prevention sluice gate system to reduce interior flooding during moon-tides. Later work includes, roughly 60-ft of Borough-owned bulkhead, as well as 60-ft of a private owner's bulkhead needs to be replaced/raised, to a minimum elevation of 8.5 feet BFE.
 - **Marine Place Steel Bulkhead** – The bulkhead to be cleaned and coated with a 3-coat system rust-proofing paint to slow the aging process of the steel. Cap replacement and street side coating happening first. Waterside will happen after funding is secured.
 - **Veteran's Park** – Living Shoreline & Bulkhead, a combination composite bulkhead and living shoreline to reduce flooding and sustain the shoreline. The living shoreline would extend into the water abutting the bulkhead. In moderate storm events, the living shoreline would provide the protection necessary for wave action mitigation and shifting of sands.
 - **Snug Harbor Avenue Pump Station** – A regional storm water pump station to be installed at Snug Harbor, adjacent to Bay Avenue, inside the top end of the man-made canal. This will eliminate the need for gravity outfall pipes that have been known to be a factor in the flooding of this area.
 - This plan will include the following grant submissions:
 - US Department of Defense Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) – pre-proposal submitted 11/22/21 for joint Monmouth University, Highlands & Aberdeen. Pre-application accepted 12/21/21. Full sent 3/21/22. – Awarded for design and permitting only.
 - FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – FY2021 submitted to NJOEM 11/15/21, NJOEM sent to FEMA on 1/31/22. Resubmitting for 2022.
 - FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) – This is a reimbursement grant.
 - NJDEP Shore Protection Program – submitted 11/10/21.
- **Waterwitch Pump Station** – Replace existing structure with new, elevated one with updated electric and controls out of the flood zone. This project work order has been with FEMA since 2013.
- **Skate Park Grants**
 - Submitted Green Acres 7/12/21, awarded 10/21/21 \$449,260 in low interest loan + \$149,753 in a grant.
 - Submitted Monmouth County Open Space 9/16/21, \$200,000 awarded on 12/9.
 - Submission of letter of intent to the Skatepark Project on 1/11 (aka the Tony Hawk Foundation).
- **Address runoff issues from Monmouth Hills** - On-going discussions with Monmouth Hills HOA, State, County and Middletown officials. Monmouth Hills HOA hired an engineering firm to study the area and we look forward to working on a solution together. Grant writers working on DEP grant.
- **Enter the Community Rating System [CRS] program for lower flood insurance** - Named CRS Coordinator to be Gregory R. Valesi, PE, PP, CME, CFM of CME on 11/10/21. The next step is for FEMA to conduct a visit or contact the Borough to review National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

All the best to you and yours.

Mayor Carolyn Broullon