

Bloomfield Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee Minutes for April 2, 2025

MEETING DETAILS

Date: April 2, 2025

Time: 7PM ET

Location: [Zoom](#)

II. ROLL CALL.

Present: Norm Sutaria, Matthew Meisel, Duke Ophori, Filip Gzella, Martin Ryan, and Councilman Nick Joanow.

Absent: Tracy Toler-Phillips, Flint Kinkade.

Guests: none.

III. CALL TO ORDER.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

1. Confirm if the Bloomfield resident flood feedback form is ready to submit
Mr. Sutaria said that the form is ready and that a Spanish translation. Mr. Ryan asked if the only material change vs last version is the Spanish translation, and Mr. Sutaria said yes.

As a next step, Mr. Sutaria said that we will send this form to the Township and with a recommendation that it may be useful in emergency planning, with the hopes of fielding the survey prior to this year's hurricane system. Mr. Joanow will send it to the township administrator and to they mayor.

2. Discuss the committee's feedback for the township master plan.

Mr. Gzella suggested the following: a) incentivize residents to do micro-retention projects on their own properties, e.g, rain barrels; b) create a "flood network," deploy flood sensors strategically throughout town in order to provide feedback to DPW; and c) require all new development to complete a short stormwater planning form in order to track the addition of impermeable surfaces.

Mr. Sutaria suggested the following: a) agrees that recommendations could be better organized and grouped thematically; and b) asks if Vialytics AI tool could be used post flooding. He further suggested seeing if the FloodNet team would be interested in speaking to this committee.

Mr. Sutaria asked how this group will provide feedback. Mr. Joanow suggests that this committee provide a written letter that he would transmit to the Township manager and mayor. Mr. Sutaria agreed to draft a framework and place it on Google Docs for the

committee members to edit by next Monday.

Mr. Meisel asked if there should be development limits placed on new impervious surfaces. After discussion, the committee agreed that there should be a recommendation in the master plan to incentivize installation of pervious surfaces on private properties, but the committee is not recommending at this time to limit new impervious surfaces. The committee further agrees that mandatory data collection (i.e., Mr. Gzella's recommendation above) is an appropriate next step.

3. Discussion of Greener Bloomfield Ordinances vs 2024 Flood Ordinance Updates.

Postponed to the next meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Essex County Regional Flood Mitigation Committee

Mr. Sutaria suggested that this committee request that the county Regional Flood Mitigation Committee publish its agendas and minutes, or at least to provide copies of such to this committee. Discussion ensued. Mr. Sutaria moved to formally request this action of the Regional Flood Mitigation Committee, Mr. Gzella seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

VI. OTHER ITEMS.

1. **Approval of minutes** of the March 5, 2025 meeting.
Minutes are approved 5-0 (Mr. Meisel moved, Prof. Ophori seconded).
2. **Public discussion.** The public must give a name and address. Comment limited to three minutes.
No members of the public are present.
3. **Meeting schedule.** Confirmation of next meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion to adjourn passes 5-0 (Mr. Sutaria moved, Mr. Meisel seconded).