

Bloomfield Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee Minutes for July 9, 2025

MEETING DETAILS

Date: July 9, 2025

Time: 7PM ET

Location: Zoom Meeting

II. ROLL CALL.

Present: Tracy Toler-Philips, Matthew Meisel, Filip Gzella, Duke Ophori, Martin Ryan.

Absent: Norm Sutaria, Flint Kinkade, Councilman Nick Joanow.

Guests: none.

III. CALL TO ORDER.

Ms. Tracy Toler-Philips called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

1. Ms. Toler-Philips says that the planning board's counsel Michael Rubin told Township Administrator Anthony DeZeno—who in turn emailed Mr. Joanow on Jun 16—that Mr. Rubin has recommended that the planning board have a master plan subcommittee meeting to discuss possible amendments, including this committee's.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

2. Discussion: Possible flood mitigation projects. Refer to the Remington and Venick Engineering report.
Township Engineering department would actually have to create a scope of work and see if it's technically feasible, and re-do cost estimates.

Viewing of Ampere Parkway

Riverline Restoration

Myrtle Street

Davey St median

Committee discussion of Thornton/Prospect. 45 West St.

See project summaries here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rxt5rDHGkXymDrYghJUgSvdr7TRjsDKF?usp=sharing>

Mr. Meisel asks who the decision maker at the Township is with respect to implementing flood mitigation measures. Ms. Toler-Philips says that it's a recommendation of the

township administrator, and any allocation needs to be approved by the counsel. Mr. Meisel notes that the R&V report uses \$3/gallon to estimate the construction cost of each project, and Mr. Meisel said he believes that that's not a reasonable assumption. Mr. Gzella said that a new engineering study would be required to estimate costs. Mr. Meisel said that the township ought to commission a study to create budgetary estimates for each project.

Ms. Toler-Philips says that she will ask the township what the allocation for flood mitigation projects is in the proposed 2025 budget.

Mr. Sutaria joined the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Mr. Sutaria says that the Planning Board and Town Council have approved the Area In Need of Redevelopment report for the properties along Dodd St./Myrtle St., including the parking lot. Next step: the Planning Board/Town Council will appoint a redeveloper to develop the site and present building plans. The assembled properties cover a large area. Ms. Toler-Philips suggests that this committee recommend folding in stormwater retention measures as a part of the redevelopment plan.

Mr. Meisel moves that this committee recommend to the township that a) the Myrtle Street parking lot redevelopment plan include stormwater retention measures, and b) that the township commission a study to determine budgetary cost estimates of all the projects described in the V&R report. Mr. Sutaria seconds. The motion passes without objection.

3. Discussion of REAL rule changes

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/is-dep-eyeing-changes-to-controversial-flood-rules/>
<https://mercerme.com/advocates-call-on-governor-murphy-to-enact-flood-protection-rules-ahead-of-august-deadline/>

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/07/09/controversial-flood-rules-could-see-changes-before-august-deadline/>

Mr. Kinkade joined the meeting at 7:50 pm.

4. Letter to Mayor Mundell re survey.

Ms. Toler-Philips suggests that committee members review the letter by Friday, July 11, and provide feedback in the google doc.

VI. OTHER ITEMS.

1. **Approval of minutes** of the June 11, 2025 meeting.
The motion passes without objection.

2. Public discussion. The public must give a name and address. Comment limited to three minutes.

None.

3. Meeting schedule. Discussion of next meeting time.

Ms. Toler-Philips moves to cancel the scheduled August 5 meeting and to meet next on September 3. The motion passes without objection.

4. Ms. Toler-Philips notes that the township budget meeting is Monday July 21 at 7 pm.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

Ms. Toler-Philips adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.