

NEWS from the Catskill Watershed Corp

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GNH Lumber gets CWC grant to study possible relocation

MARGARETVILLE, February 5, 2016: The Catskill Watershed Corp. Board of Directors on February 2 authorized a Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation (FHMI) grant of \$15,000 to the Town of Windham to study the feasibility of relocating an anchor business out of the floodplain.

Moving GNH Lumber out of the Batavia Kill floodplain is one of the recommendations in the Local Flood Analysis (LFA) for the hamlet of Windham. The LFA indicates that lowering the elevation in that area off Main Street will reduce flood elevations elsewhere in the community.

GNH Lumber, which includes a large lumber yard, storage facility and retail/office complex, has been seriously damaged in previous floods, most recently during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. The study will examine relocation options, infrastructure needs and other issues to determine if benefits outweigh potential costs.

Greene County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) will provide additional funding for this feasibility study.

In other action, the CWC Board voted to allow rolling submissions of applications to the FHMI grant program, rather than restricting awards to twice a year.

The Board also approved reimbursement of eligible costs of stormwater control designs incurred by Nick Bove Enterprises for an addition to Windham Mountain Outfitters; Windham Foursome for a 10-lot subdivision; and to homeowners Chris Barber (Windham) and Andrew Penson (Tannersville) for stormwater practices required for their properties.

On the economic development front, the CWC Board

- voted to continue its contract with SUNY Ulster to partially fund the salary of a full-time business counselor who helps Watershed entrepreneurs develop business and marketing plans. This service is provided at no cost to the businessperson.
- authorized \$30,000 to help administer and promote the Recreational Boating Program on New York City reservoirs in 2016. The CWC has actively supported this popular program since its inception in 2010.

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development and education programs in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River. www.cwconline.org