

NEWS from the Catskill Watershed Corp

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CWC takes flood mitigation action in Windham; approves funding for fuel tank anchoring

The Catskill Watershed Corp. (CWC) Board of Directors on June 7 approved a grant of \$235,000 from the Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation (FHMI) Program to purchase a 6.8-acre parcel of land for the relocation of GNH Lumber in Windham.

The action will help this anchor business move from its current site along the Bataviakill stream, to a parcel outside the flood plain along Route 23 just east of the hamlet of Windham.

The Local Flood Analysis (LFA) conducted for Windham identified GNH relocation as a top priority because it would eliminate repetitive flood damage to the business as well as allow for floodplain reclamation, reducing future flood damage to several upstream properties.

The CWC in February approved funding to study the feasibility of relocating the lumber yard and associated equipment rental business. While that study is in its final stages, a parcel of land that has been eyed for the relocated business has become available. Greene County Industrial Development Agency which is coordinating the study requested CWC's assistance in acquiring it, and the Board responded by authorizing the CWC's Executive Director to purchase the property and turn it over to GNH Lumber at a future date.

The CWC's FHMI Program is intended to help fund projects such as property protection measures, floodplain reclamation, public infrastructure protection and property buyout/relocation identified in LFAs that have been completed or are underway in affected municipalities.

In other action at its June meeting, the CWC Board amended the LFHMI Program rules to include funding for the anchoring of above-ground oil tanks (330-gallons or less) and propane tanks (420 gallons or less). Such pollution prevention measures must be recommended in a town's LFA. Tanks must be within a 500-year flood elevation to be eligible.

Procedures for this new initiative are under development; potential applicants may consult their town code enforcement officer or LFHMI Program specialist John Mathiesen at 845-586-1400 for further information.

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.