



Dear Friends,

I want to talk to you briefly about the Army Corps plan and the meeting with the Corps on the 18th. Let me begin by acknowledging that there is much justified fear, anxiety and stress in the community that has been caused by the flooding that has plagued Mamaroneck for generations. Each predicted significant rainfall prompts worry and fear in flood prone areas that is palpable. I wish I could dispel all of this fear today but I can't. What we can offer now is real tangible HOPE from our friends at the Army Corps (who really want to enact the approved plan post haste to help us) and a Village government that is committed to finally dedicating the resources and attention that this life threatening situation deserves.

This has gone on for way too long and we have been ill served by every segment of government, including local, going back a century. Since I have been in and out of Village government for the past 20 years I accept some of that failure as my own. I truly have been working hard to rectify this error.

In the past few months the Village has committed millions of dollars to do the work we need to do to make our community more flood resistant and keep our citizens safe. We have also committed to hiring both a Village Engineer and an Assistant Engineer who will be our in house anti-flooding staff.

On Wednesday night the Army Corps is coming to Mamaroneck to explain the approved plan that will begin seriously addressing flooding on the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck rivers. This plan will not in and of itself remediate all flooding but it will certainly have a significant impact in reducing flooding. [Here is the plan if you are not familiar with it.](#)

In my view the plan is the cornerstone of a larger strategy to that will run in parallel with Village, and hopefully County efforts, to keep water from reaching our residents homes. But make no mistake, without the ACE plan we are just tinkering at the edges of catastrophe. On Wednesday evening the Corps will explain the plan and then entertain questions from the community. There may be some room for the Corps to make minor changes to the plan but the fundamentals will remain the same. I know many members of the community have their own theories about what causes flooding and what should be done to remediate flooding. Some of these theories may have validity and some may not but Wednesday's discussion should center on the approved plan. Let's bear in mind that the Army Corps is the only government agency in America that is specifically tasked with protecting communities from flooding. Their engineering expertise and historical knowledge is unparalleled. In short they are the experts.

A little history, the current plan took over ten years to finally get approved in 2017. It was set to be funded but the funding was pulled by the last Administration in Washington. After the floods of Hurricane Ida I called all of our elected officials to a press conference in Mamaroneck

to witness our devastation and to demand immediate help. Senate Leader Schumer quickly sprang into action and got the funding for our already approved plan into the Ida Recovery act. This federal action funds the plan that was already approved, this is not a new study. A new study would require us to go back to the drawing board with absolutely NO guarantee of ever getting a plan approved. Even if in some future date another plan was to get approved it would be at least another generation before any significant actions are taken.

Let me be frank Mamaroneck cannot afford to wait indefinitely and lose this chance at significant help. We will not survive many more of these tragic flooding events. Eventually they will leave whole swaths of our community uninhabitable. The diversity that so many folks rightly applaud us for will be washed away by our inaction. I don't mean to seem alarmist but as your Mayor I think you deserve to know what I really think. This is our last bite of the apple. Half measures avail us nothing.

So on Wednesday night let's politely and cogently bring our questions and concerns to our partners at the Corps. Let's remember that these men and women have been advocating for us and for this plan for about 15 years. They are here to help.

We will face this challenge together, encouraging and supporting each other like good comrades. Nature has done its worst, we will respond by doing our best.

Respectfully,  
Tom Murphy  
Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck