

**EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018, 7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at Legion Hall.

Members present: Edward Perkins, Tom Delaney, and Bob Hanninen

Member absent: George Barringer and Eileen McHugh

**OLIVIA WAY DRAINAGE PROBLEMS**

The Committee met with developer Peter Cricones, his attorney Carla Page, and his engineer Doug Lees to discuss remediation of the severe flooding problems on Olivia Way. The Committee's consulting engineer, Jared Gentilucci of Nitsch Engineering, and Olivia Way residents were present.

The flooding has made Olivia Way impassable and caused flooding in basements that has required continuous pumping onto the abutting land owned by the Groton Conservation Commission with the Commission's approval for the temporary measure.

Engineer Doug Lees presented two plans for the Committee's review. The Phase 1 plan showed temporary measures to alleviate the flooding problems by installing an overflow outlet pipe which would discharge behind EUA #14 and flow onto the abutting conservation property. Ms. Hepburn, 14 Olivia Way, asked if the overflow pipe would cause flooding in their backyard. Mr. Lees said the overflow pipe would discharge toward the turtle barrier on the conservation land.

Gary McNabb, 5 Olivia Way, said prior to construction, foundations were pumped out. He asked how high the groundwater is now. He said the high groundwater is exacerbating the problem. Mr. Lees said the site slopes toward Reedy Meadow Brook on the conservation land.

Elizabeth Esielionis, 3 Olivia Way, said she has water in her back yard whenever it rains. Mr. Lees said the elevation of the road is 205' and the house at 3 Olivia Way is 212' so the house is higher than the road. Ms. Esielionis said she has two pumps in the basement, a submersible pump and a pedestal pump. The pumps run continuously.

Andrew George, 13 Olivia Way, said the stormwater management system was designed to be self-contained. He said the developer cannot increase runoff from the site onto EUA 14 and the conservation land. Water will flood the backyard at 14 Olivia Way. Mr. Lees said the plan requires permission of the Conservation Commission for the discharge onto its property.

Mr. Lees said the StormTec subsurface infiltrator system on EUA 9 and EUA 13 is too high for an overflow pipe so they will connect the two catch basins in Olivia Way to the StormTec system on EUA 8 and 9.

Joel Meiners, 6 Olivia Way, asked if the StormTec system is in the groundwater, how will it function. Mr. Lees said the bottom of the system should be a minimum of 2 feet above high groundwater as required in the Massachusetts Stormwater Regulations and the Town of Groton Stormwater Regulations.

Sandra McNabb, 5 Olivia Way, said the system cannot work now. Mr. Lees said Phase 1 is a temporary solution and Phase 2 is the proposed permanent solution.

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Ms. McNabb asked if the developer would restore their lawns after installing the changes to the drainage system.

Channing Lambert, 10 Olivia Way, said his basement is flooded 8" deep and the pumps must run continuously, 24-hours a day. Mr. Lees said the Phase 1 plan will provide an outlet which should alleviate the basement flooding.

Ms. Hepburn, 14 Olivia Way, said they just landscaped their lawn and would like to be reimbursed for any damage done to their property.

Mr. McNabb, 5 Olivia Way, asked if the engineer verified whether the stormwater system was installed properly. Mr. Lees said he located the elevations of the system which were installed one foot higher than the design plan. The stormwater system, as installed is shown on the as-built plan. Mr. Lees said the Phase 1 remediation plan can be installed now and the Phase 2 plan will be installed in the spring. The Phase 2 plan includes raising the elevation of the road and installing a new drainage swale on the EUA 13 and EUA 14 property line. The Phase 2 work cannot be done until the spring. Mr. McNabb asked what would happen if there is an epic rain event.

Mr. Lambert said even with the continuous pumping, he is still having problems. He said they cannot raise all their dwellings. He said the homeowners have added insurance costs with the flooding.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette said the Phase 1 plan should be implemented immediately and the Phase 2 plan should be done in the spring. A modification of the Stormwater Permit is required for the Phase 2 remediation plan. Engineer Jared Gentilucci agreed that the developer should do everything on the Phase 1 plan now and proceed with Phase 2 in the spring.

Member Delaney recommended that the developer ask the Conservation Commission for permission to extend the overflow pipe underneath the turtle barrier to discharge on the conservation land. A swale will require maintenance so it is better to put the overflow pipe underneath the turtle barrier.

Mr. Meiners asked if the Phase 1 plan will increase the flooding. He asked who should approach the Conservation Commission about installing the overflow pipe on the conservation land. Member Delaney said the developer must present the plan to the Conservation Commission. Engineer Doug Lees said they must also submit the proposed changes in the plan to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program at MassWildlife.

John Hambrecht, 9 Olivia Way, asked if raising the road means elevating all the infrastructure including the electrical transformers. Member Delaney said raising the electrical transformers is up to the Groton Electric Light Department. It is the design engineer's responsibility to come up with the proposed solution.

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Delaney, to extend Stormwater Permit 2014-12 for a period of six (6) months, ending on June 18, 2019, for Olivia Way in the Reedy Meadow Estates subdivision, with the following conditions:

1. The work shown on the short-term remediation plan entitled, "Drainage Relief Plan – Phase 1 in Groton, Massachusetts, Reedy Meadow Estates, "Olivia Way," prepared by Land Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc., dated December 18, 2018, shall be completed within one month, ending on January 18, 2019. The Committee determined that the proposed work shown on the plan is a field change to the existing Stormwater Permit and is necessary to address the on-going flooding problems of the roadway, homes, and yards on Olivia Way.
2. The developer shall submit an application to modify the Stormwater Management Permit with a long-term plan showing a permanent solution to the flooding problems. The application must be submitted within the six-month extension of Stormwater Permit 2014-12, ending on June 18, 2019. The Committee will hold the required public hearing to consider the proposed plans and modification of the Stormwater Management Permit.
3. The developer shall meet with the Groton Conservation Commission, owner of the abutting property that was originally part of the Reedy Meadow Estates subdivision, to explore options to discharge runoff from the proposed "Stone Overflow" as shown on the Phase 1 plan and the "4' wide grass swale" shown on the Phase 2 plan entitled, "Plan & Profile - Phase 2 in Groton, Massachusetts, Reedy Meadow Estates, "Olivia Way," prepared by Land Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc., dated December 18, 2018.
4. The "4' wide grass swale" on EUA E (house #13) as shown on the Phase 2 plan shall be installed underground and connected to the "Stone Overflow" on EUA D (house #14) as shown on the Phase 1 plan.
5. All costs of designing and implementing the remediation plans shall be borne by the developer.
6. All disturbances to the homeowners' properties, including yards, landscaping, irrigation systems, and driveways, shall be restored by the developer to pre-flooding conditions. All costs associated with the restoration of homeowners' properties shall be borne by the developer.
7. All costs of the peer review engineering are the responsibility of the developer as required in Chapter 352 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Section 352-3C Project Review Fee.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette  
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector