

**EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024, 6:30 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Savage called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall.

Members present: Bruce Easom, Bob Hanninen, Tom Delaney, and Steven Savage

Member absent: George Barringer

731 MARTINS POND ROAD

Jim Luening, abutter to 731 Martins Pond Road, met with the Committee regarding his concerns about runoff from the abutting property, owned by Sergio Valerio. Mr. Luening presented slides and a video showing runoff onto his property. He said his basement has been dry for 10 years, but his sump pump started running in September when the heavy rainstorms occurred. He believes a Limited Stormwater Permit should have been submitted based upon the 5000 SF or more with a slope greater than 10% requirements in Chapter 198. Mr. Luening also said the amount of disturbance on the site totals 31,000 SF, and no permit was obtained.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette said she signed off on the building permit based upon a measurement of 18,000 SF of disturbed land which did not meet the 20,000 SF threshold.

Mr. Valerio said rainfall runs downhill from the top of the hill, which is in its natural state, onto his property and Mr. Luening's property.

Member Delaney asked if the existing driveway was paved to binder course only. Mr. Valerio said, "yes" and he will install a granite curb when the final pavement is added. He also said he installed a 600 gallon catch basin at the bend in his driveway and another one at the intersection of the driveway and Martins Pond Road.

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette asked Mr. Valerio to submit a voluntary application for a limited Stormwater Management Permit rather than debating whether the project meets the threshold. The Committee will hold a public hearing, notify abutters, and issue a permit.

Member Easom thanked Mr. Luening for the video presentation which was very helpful. He said if 31,000 SF has been disturbed, then a permit is required. Member Hanninen agreed that an application should be submitted.

Chairman Savage said if 31,000 SF was disturbed according to Mr. Luening's calculations, and the existing driveway of approximately 9000 SF is not considered, the result is 22,000 SF of disturbed area which does require a permit. He encouraged Mr. Valerio to work with Dillis and Roy on the design of a berm along the side of the driveway. He said Mr. Valerio should install straw wattles in the meanwhile to control runoff from the driveway.

LOST LAKE/KNOPS POND

Alex Woodle and Ron Hersch of the Great Ponds Advisory Committee requested a letter of support from the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee for a Chapter 319 grant application to study non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff into Lost Lake and Knops Pond. Mr. Woodle said the Community Preservation Committee recommended funding that was approved by Town Meeting in 2021. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires a 40% funding match for the grant. Work by homeowners can be counted as part of the matching funds. The grant application process will open in early May.

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The motion was made by Delaney, seconded by Easom, to write a letter of support for the Great Ponds Advisory Committee's application for a grant for Chapter 319 funds from the DEP. The motion passed unanimously.

STORMWATER INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Court Street Flooding Issues – Michelle Collette reported that she met with residents of Court Street during a recent rainstorm and observed a large area of ponded water in Judy Sawyer's and Meredith Bowles' backyards. The water seemed to be backing up from an area that normally flows toward the rail trail and James Brook.

Member Delaney agreed that this area drains toward James Brook. The Department of Public Works (DPW) installed crushed stone in several catch basins on Main Street from the Groton Inn to Elm Street and School Street to address stormwater issues. He said something else may be causing the backup, but he is not sure where. He said the Town's catch basins discharge directly to James Brook which is on the opposite side of Court Street.

Court Street resident, Fran Stanley, said the neighbors used to have pipes in their backyards to help drain the water, but the volume of water from recent storms was too large to handle.

Member Delaney said he would look at the system and try to figure out what is causing the problem. He said he would track it backwards to see if the system needs to be cleaned out. He will check all the inlets and outlets. If they find something that is broken, they will fix it.

REVISIONS TO THE STORMWATER BY-LAW AND REGULATIONS

The Committee discussed reviewing the Stormwater By-Law and Regulations to determine if any revisions should be made. Changes to the by-law require a vote of Town Meeting that could be done in the fall. The Committee will ask Nitsch Engineer and/or Environmental Partners for a quote on the proposed review.

MINUTES

The motion was made by Easom, seconded by Hanninen, to approve the January 2, 2024 minutes. The motion passed with Delaney, Easom, Hanninen in favor; Savage abstaining.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and Tuesday, April 16, 2024, because there will be elections on the first Tuesdays of March and April.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector