

**EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024, 6:30 PM
MINUTES**

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

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

Members absent: George Barringer and Tom Delaney

DISCUSSION – CHRISTIAN UNION CHURCH, 37 WEST MAIN ST

The Committee met with Joan Denaro and Judy Cushman of the Christian Union Church to discuss possible solutions to the existing drainage problems at the site. Ms. Denaro said water drains from the hill at the rear of the property and into the basement of the church. She said they spent \$30,000 to install a perimeter drain around the foundation and to remediate the mold in the building. The situation is better, but there is still a problem. They would like to work with abutting property owner, Squannacook Hall, LLC, to come up with a solution. Brian Lagasse, a local contractor, is willing to work with them to fix the problem.

Chairman Savage asked if there is any information on the elevations of the grades in the area. He said, in a perfect world, an engineer should be hired to establish grades and propose a solution.

Ms. Denaro said the church has a design plan for a new sewage disposal system and drainage that was done in 2015. The new sewage disposal system was not installed. She said the Planning Board allowed the church to construct the driveway and to provide a limited number of parking spaces along the side of the building.

Chairman Savage said a plan showing the existing topography must be prepared before any decisions are made. He recommended taking the following steps:

1. Talk with DPW Director Tom Delaney about the drainage system in West Main Street.
2. Hire a civil engineer to design the solution to the drainage system.
3. Prepare an agreement with all three parties (Christian Union Church, Squannacook Hall, LLC, and the Town) on the proposed solution.

Member Easom said he was at the site walk as a member of the Conservation Commission, and the sump pump in the basement went off every ten minutes and pumped water to the rear of the building. The dry well is only 24" from the high groundwater elevation.

Member Easom asked where the existing sewage disposal system is located. Ms. Denaro said it is in the front yard.

Member Easom suggested installing an infiltration trench on the church's property along West Main Street to collect runoff from the rear of the property.

Member Hanninen said it is important to know exactly where the existing sewage disposal system is located.

The Committee wished Ms. Denaro and Ms. Cushman good luck with resolving the drainage issues.

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NITSCH ENGINEERING

The Committee received a proposal from Jared Gentilucci of Nitsch Engineering for engineering services to prepare proposed amendments to the Stormwater Management By-law. The Committee plans to submit an article proposing the amendments at the Fall Town Meeting.

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Easom, to accept the Nitsch Engineering proposal to review and recommend revisions to Chapter 198 Stormwater Management Low Impact Development By-Law in an amount not to exceed \$5000. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Easom, to approve the minutes of April 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

FLORENCE ROCHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Stormwater Inspector Michelle Collette reported that there has been great progress at the Florence Roche Elementary School. The contractor has not completed the installation of the stormwater management system yet, but they plan to have it finished prior to the opening of school in late August.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector