

Department of Public Works
Advisory Board Meeting
April 18, 2007
Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Wednesday April 18, 2007 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett, Dan McIntyre and Jim Pyne, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss and Town Accountant Heidi Kriger. Also present were town residents Nancy Peters, Mary Pratt, Mr. & Mrs. Pickholz and Joe Strazulla.

STORM WATER RUN OFF AT #1 SPRING ST

Mr. Gaucher reviewed the options to ease the flooding problem at #1 Spring Street, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Pickholz. He showed the board a map of the area showing the elevation detail and explained that #1 Spring Street is at the lowest elevation in the area. Mr. Gaucher explained that Fay, Spofford & Thorndike was asked to study this same problem in 1995, and at that time their recommendation was to run a drain to Lake Whitehall at an estimated cost of \$225,000.

Mr. Gaucher said there is a catch basin on Spring Street approximately 800 feet from #1 Spring Street and he estimated to run a drain to that catch basin would cost in the area of \$80,000 + .

Mr. Gaucher showed the board, using the elevation map, an area on the north side of Wood Street where there is town owned land that drainage might be able to be directed to, but said in 1995 Fay, Spofford & Thorndike ruled it out due to the possibility that road salt might find its way into the well field area on Fruit Street. Mr. Pyne asked if the catch

basin on Wood Street could be leached along Wood Street in a westerly direction and eliminate the flow of water onto Spring Street. Mr. Gaucher said it was a possibility, but there are other houses with flooding issues in that area and we would have to be extremely careful not to create a more severe problem in that area.

Another option discussed was to install a “Dry Hydrant” at #1 Spring Street and use a section of the water main that is being replaced as a drain line that water could be pumped through to an area further down Spring Street and then directed toward Lake Whitehall using a structure to protect the lake from contaminates. Mr. Gaucher said a change order is being prepared by the contractor installing the water main and estimated it will cost about \$10,000 for the contractor to do the work. Mr. Pyne asked if it would be possible for the DPW to make the required connections instead of paying the contractor to do it. Mr. Gaucher said it was something that could be considered.

The board suggested the “Dry Hydrant” could and should be installed as a first step while the Wood Street option, which would be a long term improvement, was being investigated further.

The board asked Mr. Gaucher to prepare a comparison cost estimate of obtaining easements and construction to re-direct the Wood Street catch basin flow to the rear of private properties west of Cunningham Street and discharge onto land owned by the town provided proper care was taken to prevent salt from reaching the wells on Fruit Street as compared to installation of a “Dry Hydrant” and using abandoned water main along Spring Street. Mr. Gaucher said he would report back with that information before July.

SHARED COSTS

Mr. Sonnett explained that the water and sewer enterprise funds pay the town for shared services of staff that do work for the enterprise fund departments. The discussion of the amount of shared costs, which the Town Account was present for, was postponed until May 2nd when Mark Abrahams will be in attendance to discuss the water and sewer rate review.

WATER & SEWER RATE REVIEW

As mentioned above, the water and sewer rate review that was to be held on April 26th was postponed until May 2nd and will include a discussion of water and sewer shared costs.

81 MAIN STREET DRAINAGE

Mr. Strazulla presented three concept option drawings for an office building he is planning to build at the rear of 81 Main Street. He appeared before the board in April 2006 to discuss drainage problems caused by the Little League construction of a wall and walkway across his property without proper permits. His presentation today also was in regard to drainage issues. At the April 2006 meeting it was suggested that he contact the owners of 77 Main Street to inquire whether drainage from the ball field and his property could enter their detention pond. The board said that if that option did not work out then drainage options along Main Street would probably have to be investigated. He said today that he did discuss that with them and due to their planned expansion of their own

property they were not interested in accepting run off from Mr. Strazulla's property or the ball field.

Mr. Strazulla explained that currently the water from the ball field runs onto his property and eventually finds its way onto Main Street and runs down the street to the catch basin near the fire station. Some water from the field also enters the parking lot of 77 Main Street and runs into their catch basin in the parking lot. He said that with the planned construction of a new building he may install some sort of recharge system on his property, but he is also willing to work with the town to improve the drainage for the area.

The board asked Mr. Strazulla if he would be willing, as part of his on-site engineering, to ask his engineers prepare a cost estimate for installing additional drainage along Main Street from his property to the existing drain near the fire station. Mr. Strazulla said he would include that as an option in his engineering work.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Legal Services

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the DPW has been named as a defendant, along with the Conservation Commission, in the law suit filed by Mr. Morrison. He said the Conservation Commission has approved \$5,000 for legal services and asked the board their opinion of the DPW using the same legal counsel. Mr. Sonnett said he thought according to town policy that Town Counsel should be consulted and if he felt he could not represent the town then he should recommend counsel who could. The other board members agreed, and Mr. McIntyre made the following motion:

Motion – The board should recommend to the Board of Selectmen that use of legal counsel for the DPW in the case of Morrison vs. Murphy should be approved for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. Pyne seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

Marathon Cleanup

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the amount of trash and clothing left after the start of the Boston Marathon was far worse than anything seen in recent memory. He said the staff from DPW did an outstanding job in dealing with this situation, especially in getting volunteers to clean up the parking lot at Colella's Market and DPW staff for cleaning up East Main Street all the way to the Ashland town line.

Lake Maspenock Dam

Mr. Gaucher said that during the on-going storm the Lake Maspenock Dam has held up well, and that Milford Water Co. has lifted the gate slightly to allow more water to flow.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 4, 2007 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Pyne and seconded by Mr. Sonnett. The vote to approve was: Sonnett – yes; Pyne – yes. Mr. McIntyre was called away from the meeting prior to this vote.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday May 2, 2007 in room 211 at the town hall at 7:30 AM.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss, DPW Administrative Manager