

Wayland Department of Public Works
Minutes
7:30 PM
April 12, 2010
DPW Meeting
Approve July 12, 2010

Present: Knapp, Wegerbauer, McCarthy, Gayshan, Ouellette and Gorham.

Knapp opened the meeting at 7:37 PM

Public Comment

Heather Ryan, 4 Farm Circle – Ryan spoke of the very unusual flooding. She would like an expert to come in to assess what happened. She said that as soon as the large pump was taken from Rolling Lane, the water began to rise. She noted that the water is calming down elsewhere in Wayland. Ouellette explained that the unusual flooding is due to a very high water table. Ouellette said that there were actually 4 events, including one with more than 10” of rain. Ouellette said the Old Farm, Rolling lane area is a large bowl and a lot like a giant sponge. Ouellette added that other areas in town are still having issues like Pelham Island and Squirrel Hill. Ouellette described how difficult it was to pump out of Rolling Lane. Ouellette said that the only way to pump the water out is to pump up and over the hill. Ouellette said that 2 houses on Rolling Lane had water in their basement almost up to the rafters. Ouellette said that the pump they are using now is too big and pumps too much water bringing the water level down quickly, but the pump loses its prime. Ouellette said that the pumps that were borrowed from the State were taken back by the State, although Fred, Chief Irving and Chief Loomer were able to keep them for an extra day. Tom Sciacca, 31 Rolling Lane noted that the pump is not located at the low point in the area.

Stephanie Leong, 38 Rolling Lane – Stephanie told the Board that her home is located between Rolling Lane and Old Farm and is adjacent to the drainage easement . She said she has been nervous about the pump shutting down. She wants to make sure something is done and that the drainage easements works. She wants to see the problem resolved.

Tom Sciacca, 31 Rolling Lane – Sciacca told the Board that he knows hydrology. He said that the extent of the damage is unprecedented. He said one house that has 8ft of water in their basement has never had water before. The other house that had 8 ft. of water did have water issues before. Sciacca said that the river was ½ foot over the recorded record. Sciacca said that he has a gut feeling that there are other local factors involved in the flooding. Sciacca described the geology of the area to the Board. Sciacca mentioned that turning off the Happy Hollow Wells is one of the factors, but unclear how large a factor. Sciacca feels that there needs to be an expert study. Sciacca requested that the current hydrological study be extended to look at flooding issues. Sciacca said that we need to have a plan in place. Sciacca strongly believes that this flooding will happen again.

Bob Olshansky, 8 Old Farm Road – North side of Old Farm is a vernal pool. Olshansky said the area floods every spring. Olshansky said that there is a 40B project proposed for the area including the vernal pool. Olshansky said that Davelin Road has inadequate drainage. The DEP determination stated that the developer made errors on the plan in his favor. Olshansky expressed his concern about the 40B creating more flooding issues in the area. Ouellette said that regarding the 40B, he can comment on the flooding and drainage issues.

(DPW is paying for the current hydrological study. – Ouellette)

A discussion ensued about the hydrological study. A discussion ensued about forecasting the floods. (McCarthy left at 8:15 PM)

A discussion ensued about the cost of a hydrological survey that would cover several areas in town.

John Howe, 8 Old Farm Circle – Asked if there is a leak in the aqueduct. Ouellette replied that the aqueduct has not been used in 20 years. Ouellette said that the aqueduct was checked and there are no leaks.

Deb Aaron, 34 Rolling Lane – How long would it take to get a Hydrological report?

Sciacca replied – months

Deb Aaron asked what a short term solution could be. Ouellette replied, get the pumps out. Aaron asked about contracting someone with pumps.

Ouellette said that we will look into some kind of a service contract.

Richard Turner, 7 Knobb Hill – noted the culvert near the Library has never been so high. Asked where the source is. Ouellette said that he doesn't know where the inlet is, only have very old plans of the area. Ouellette said that there is a Jet Truck scheduled.

Nancy Hammerton, 39 Rolling Lane – said that the Town was suppose to maintain the gravel pit at Rolling Lane. Ouellette said that he is working on a general permit with Conservation to clean up drains. Sciacca noted that the pit is a reflection of the groundwater level.

Steve Rogers, 9 Rolling Lane – wants to see pump hoses go into storm drains. Currently the hoses are on the roadway and water is pouring down into his yard.

Gayshan asked if there is any money available for road repair. Ouellette said that we have put in requests for money to repair different areas. Ouellette said we will see some money, but not nearly all we requested. We may get monies to cover some overtime and hoses.

Alice Road and Hidden Springs

A discussion ensued about the process to accept streets. Knapp noted that the Town won't accept damaged property. Knapp said the Board must follow every step.

Annette Lewis said that Hidden Springs has been in existence for two years and its not even finished. She asked the Board to consider to hold off proposing the road be accepted for now.

Knapp asked Ouellette to speak with Sarkis (Planner). Knapp said he doesn't want to miss anything or make any mistake.

Intersection Route 27 & Route 30

Discussion about the land acquisitions at the intersection of 27 & 30. Discussion about the issues from the parking lot behind Starbucks.

Gayshan made a motion to support the article with changes a-d and below in the 4th paragraph of the article, and to change LOS to Level of Service.

2nd Wegerbauer

Unanimous in favor (3-0)

Traffic Calming

A discussion ensued about different types of traffic calming devices and different types of roads for different traffic calming measures. Ouellette and Knapp agreed that a Policy needs to be set.

Old Business New Business

Board agrees to divy up draft minutes to review and revise. Knapp agreed to take October 13 & January 11. Gayshan agreed to take November 9 and March 15. Wegerbauer agreed to take February 8.

Knapp asked to work on the abatement letter next meeting when Joel is present.

Gayshan asked to work on S&S Policy and the Tree Policy next meeting

Knapp asked for a current designation of roads in town from Stubby

Make sure Don O has the Pelham Island Road Study.

Directors Report

Baldwin Pond Well Treatment Plant - Ouellette said that the treatment plant needs to get up to 1200 gallons per minute. It is not there yet due to some closed valves that we are trying to locate. Ouellette said that water is coming exclusively from the Baldwin Wells. Knapp expressed concern about notifying the residents on the North side when the valves are opened, that they may experience some discolored water. A discussion ensued about the start up process for the treatment plant.

Old Connecticut Path Water main project - Ouellette told the board that the bids are out. Ouellette said that it appears that directional boring will be less expensive. The opening will be May 6. RFP is being done by Tata and Howard.

Bennet Fields – Done, but won't go online until August

Earth Day Open House – May 1, 2010 Treatment Plant 9-11 am, Highway 11-1pm, landfill 1-3pm. We will have compost bins, water barrels, waterconservations kits and 700 seedlings.

Budget

Oullette told the Board that the budget report is misleading since a lot of the flood overtime and treatment plant overtime happened in April

Wegerbauer made a motion to adjourn at 10:10 PM

2nd Gayshan

Unanimous in favor