PENFIELD WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, September 8, 2014

Town of Penfield Auditorium

3100 Atlantic Ave.
Penfield, NY 14526

MINUTES OF MEETING

ATTENDANCE: Geoff Benway, Ed Freeman, Mike Guyon, Davis Kreiser, Dennis Sanzotta, Paula Metzler, Tony LaFountain

GUESTS: Harold Mellars, Richard Hammann, Sue Foor, Tony Pasternoster, Steve Fernaays

1. Approval of Minutes: No minutes were approved due to the June 8th meeting being a field trip.

2. Project/Permits/Watershed Updates:
   a) Geoff provided the following updates:
      • Shipbuilders Creek: The Town has received a permit to clean the ditch at Plank Road North school. The new Walmart at Baytowne will be utilizing underground recharge units with a mechanical screen to collect floatables.
      • Tufa Glen: No recent activity.
      • Willow Pond Dam Modifications: The project will be out for bids in early 2015.
      • Irondequoit Creek Tributaries: Three is bank erosion occurring along Braunston Drive. Valley Brook-Valley Stream reconstruction is on hold until 2015. DPW is to clean the ditch from Penfield Road to Winterset.
      • Irondequoit Bay Tributaries: There is a severe erosion problem at Smith Road townhouses. The Southpoint Marina project has submitted their DEIS.
      • Four Mile Creek: Permits have been attained and work is to be completed by the Highway Department.
      • Hipp Brook: The stream was cleaned west of Neville Creek. The weir was restored to reduce flooding to the residents of Shadow Creek Drive. The Town received a permit to clean debris from channel north of Timber Brook Lane. The YMCA expansion is underway.
      • Commission Ditch: Mowing is underway with new mower attachment. Town is pursing releases from Carter Road drainage improvements.
      • Allens Creek: Town is looking for funding to address erosion problems.
- Ross Brook: Geoff shared Davis Kreiser’s site walk report with WMC. Well done!
- Drainage Fund: Spent to date $403,402.

3. New Business:
   a) Geoff noted that the 2015 projects will include Willow Pond Improvements and Valley Stream- Valley Brook.
   b) Pond water quality issues continue to be a concern with many residents. They include algae, odor and weeds. Geoff noted that current policy is to address function for flood control and not the aesthetic needs. Options discussed with Town Board include the creation of a special improvement district that could fund aeration, dye, enzyme treatments and/or herbicides. Cost of these improvements would be borne by the subdivision residents. Town is already using this option in new subdivisions. Staff is finalizing the specifics to create this district. Geoff to develop a permit process to allow individual residents to install water quality improvements. This will require a Hold Harmless Agreement and an insurance certificate from the licensed contractor.

   Paula suggested that this be part of the town’s educational seminars. Paula noted that the Special District was to cover services in excess of the essential services provided by the town. This process requires approval from a large majority of residents prior to implementation. A question was raised if senior citizens would be exempt. This will be determined as the process continues. Cost estimates from local venders could be provided prior to the petition process. Cost of special district would added to the tax bills.

4. Public Participation:
   - Sue Foor asked if the equipment being used on Commission Ditch is on a trial basis and if the mowing is part of an annual maintenance program. Geoff noted that the town will likely buy the rented equipment if it fits the DPW needs. It is anticipated that mowing will be completed annually to manage weed and tree growth.
   - Sue Foor asked is the Special District will include an escrow payment from developers. The Town already currently has a letter of credit process to insure proper completion of town requirements.
   - Mike Guyon asked about the charge to each resident. The cost will be established by Town staff prior to the petition process.
   - Ed Freeman noted that the developer typically pays for all fees associated with a new district. This cost will be added to the District fees.
   - Richard Hammann requested that the Town record data along Commission Ditch to help note problem areas. Geoff to set up a spreadsheet for data entry.
   - Mr. Hammann expressed his gratitude for the town’s commitment to the annual mowing. He suggested that a standard maintenance schedule be established.
   - Richard Hammann suggested that the creek inspections include tributaries that feed the main line to document need for culverts for mowing access. This should be part of inspection checklist.
   - Mr. Hammann expressed the need for the town to limit selling of excess topsoil from sites. Current requirements is for 4” on each house site.
   - Harold Mellars noted that routine maintenance is critical to pond quality and function. He checked out ATIP, which advertised at Home-a-Rama. He would like a full review of alternative practices besides the introduction of chemicals. He requested that home owners have a say on what materials are used.
5. **News & Information:**
   a) Town: Geoff noted that town has scheduled an Environmental Discussion Series beginning Sept. 22 and continuing until November 3. This will include various topics on environmental issues. These begin at 8:30 PM in the Town Auditorium.
   b) Stormwater Coalition: The NYSDEC is working on a new draft permit to take effect in 2015.

6. **Next Meeting:** October 6, 2014.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Geoff Benway*

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

- Mike Guyon
- Terry Rothfuss
- Davis Kreiser
- Geoff Benway
- Al Broccolo
- Mike Simon
- Ed Freeman
- Dennis Sanzotta
- Tony LaFountain
- Andy Moore
- Linda Kohl
- Rob Quinn
- Paula Metzler
- Town Clerk
- Town Website/PCTV