



# Town of Ashland

## MASSACHUSETTS

### **Stormwater Advisory Committee** **Minutes of January 13, 2021 Meeting** Location: Online Meeting via Zoom

**Members Present:** Jeanne Walker, Leah Lester, Brian McGrattan, Ned Breed, Maeghan Dos Anjos (ex-officio), Evan White (ex-officio)

**Members Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Rob St. Germain, Preethi Sreeraj (joined at 6:47 pm)

**Call to order at 6:30pm**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the November 13, 2020 were approved as amended on a 4-0-0 vote.

#### **Updates**

- Mr. White reported that the investigation into contamination in the Trolley Brook culvert is on hold due to winter weather. He also noted that the source of contamination might have been from cross contamination in the sample.
- Ms. Dos Anjos reported that the Waushakum Notice of Intent draft is underway and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### **Elections**

- Chair: Ms. Walker was nominated as chair. A motion was made to elect Ms. Walker as chair. The motion was seconded and passed on a 4-0-0 vote.
- Vice Chair. Ms. Lester was nominated as vice chair. A motion was made to elect Ms. Lester as vice chair. The motion was seconded and passed on a 4-0-0 vote.
- Secretary: Mr. McGrattan was nominated as secretary. A motion was made to elect Mr. McGrattan as secretary. The motion was seconded and passed on a 4-0-0 vote.

#### **Stormwater Permits for Large Scale Properties**

The Charles River Watershed Association (CWRA) is attempting to gather consensus from its member communities to require large scale properties to obtain their own permitting equivalent to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Mr. St. Germain provided examples of their efforts. The Charles River water quality improved to the extent that it met the qualification to be suitable for swimming, but large storm water inflows raised the phosphate level, reducing this qualification. Ashland has one brook that is a tributary to the Charles River. The CWRA is proposing the EPA regulate large properties with outflows into wetlands via an MS4-type permit. CRWA is looking for support from the towns to lobby this effort. There is a gap in regulations now that properties that might be contributing to phosphate levels are grandfathered. Underlying the proposal is that the new permit request will trigger testing. A "large property" per the CRWA property is a parcel one acre or greater. It was noted that one acre

may be a large parcel in urban areas, but this would include many residential parcels in some suburban and rural areas. Mr. White will contact the CRWA to see if they can attend a SWAC meeting to clarify their proposal. Mr. White and Ms. Dos Anjos will assess the impact of this proposed permitting on the town's stormwater fund.

### **Ms. Preethis Sreeraj**

Ms. Preethi Sreeraj attended the meeting and introduced herself to the committee.

### **Review of the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)**

Mr. White reviewed the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of water quality limited waters. The committee thanked Mr. White for maintaining the plan.

The committee will review the public messages and communication plan at the next meeting.

### **Review of the draft stormwater regulation changes**

Ms. Dos Anjos led SWAC through proposed changes to the town's regulations.

### **Town Meeting Follow-Up**

Ms. Walker noted that the town voters approved Article 11 (Article 11: Amend General Bylaws: Stormwater Fee Lien), voting to amend the Town of Ashland General Bylaws section 26-6, Municipal Charges Liens, by adding a new subparagraph (d) to section 26-6.C, as follows: d. Charges, fines, penalties, and/or fees including interest and all costs to record said lien(s) in the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds for failure to pay stormwater fees.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 (Online Meeting via Zoom) at 6:30 pm.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and was approved 4-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

### **Documents Referenced**

- January 13, 2021 posted agenda
- November 13, 2020 draft minutes