



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Stormwater Advisory Committee

Minutes of March 5, 2020 Meeting

Location: Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Meeting Room A

Members Present: Robert St. Germain, Jeanne Walker, Leah Lester, Brian McGrattan, Maeghan Dos Anjos (ex-officio)

Public / Non-members Present: Jay Abelli, Patricia Kendall, Kevin Langmeyer, Frank Nakashian

Meeting opened at 7:08p

Public Commentary

Mr. St. Germain recognized Mr. Abelli, a resident of Ashland, who wished to address the committee. Mr. Abelli noted that he is receiving two quarterly Stormwater bills for property he owns. The bills are for adjacent, contiguous lots, and opined that he should only receive one bill, as the second lot has no structures. He also produced a lot map showing other properties that, in his opinion, are being overcharged because from a use perspective, they are functionally one property.

The committee reviewed the decisions leading to allocation of stormwater expenses to all property owners in Ashland, including residential, commercial, government-owned and property tax exempt parcels. The committee also explained that the fees are an allocation of costs incurred by the town to comply with expenses mandated by the Clean Water Act and derivative requirements and regulations.

To resolve Mr. Abelli's specific issue, as well as those in similar circumstances, the committee advised Mr. Abelli to meet with the Planning Committee to combine his two adjacent contiguous properties into one. As long as the properties remain as separate assessments, he will continue to receive two invoices.

Mr. St. Germain thanked Mr. Abelli for coming to the SWAC meeting, and welcomed him to stay for the entire meeting.

Mr. St. Germain recognized Patricia Kendall. Ms. Kendall presented various technologies that can be incorporated to reduce storm water run-off, or use natural filters to reduce or eliminate pollutants from reaching bodies of water. Ms. Kendall specifically described:

- Bioswales: linear or island structures that are placed in roads or parking lots to filter road run-off through vegetative plantings before allowing the water to enter the stormwater system
- Pervious asphalt: A paving material that allows water to flow through the surface to enter the groundwater
- Green roofs: Different types of gardens planted on large flat roofs to absorb water and reduce heating and cooling costs to the structure
- Rain gardens: Small pools or ponds with plantings that promote the absorption of storm

into the groundwater

- Retention ponds: (usually) large structures that are used to capture excess run-off and hold storm water, allowing it to evaporate over time.

Mr. St. Germain thanked Ms. Kendall for informative presentation.

Mr. St. Germain then recognized Mr. Nakashian. Mr. Nakashian is the Sustainability Coordinator at the Town of Ashland. Mr. Nakashian is working on long term planning for composting and waste reduction for the town. In his role as Sustainability Coordinator, he influences town building planning. Mr. Nakashian and Mr. St. Germain shared the hope that the two can collaborate on projects and concepts that have stormwater implications for the Town of Ashland.

Previous Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of January 7, 2020. Approved 5-0

Updates

Mr. Evan White provided a written summary of storm water program activities.

Mrs. Lester reported on the school outreach activities, and specifically the demonstrations provided to 3rd graders at the Mindess School. In addition to the Enviroscape demonstration, packets were distributed to the students. Mrs. Lester noted that the exercise was well received by the students and fully supported by the school principal.

Upcoming Policy Decisions

Mr. St. Germain noted several upcoming policy discussions that require the attention of the committee. These include

- Proposed regulations
- The Commonwealth's refusal to pay storm water fees on its substantial properties in Ashland
- Election of committee officers
- Messaging to the community
- IDDE bylaw
- Adoption of SOP 15 concerning private drainage connections

Next Meeting

April 6, 2020, 7:00pm, Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Meeting Room A

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and was approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.