



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Stormwater Advisory Committee

Minutes of May 12, 2020 Meeting

Location: Online Meeting via Zoom

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

Public / Non-members Present: Brandi Kinsman, Preston Crow

Meeting opened at 7:03pm

Previous Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of April 6, 2020 as amended. Approved 5-0-0.

Election of Officers

Chair – Rob St Germain was nominated to serve as chair. Motion to elect Mr. St Germain as chair made and seconded. Approved 5-0-0.

Vice Chair – Jeanne Walker was nominated to serve as vice chair. Motion to elect Ms. Walker as vice chair made and seconded. Approved 5-0-0.

Secretary – Brian McGrattan was nominated to serve as secretary. Motion to elect Mr. McGrattan as secretary made and seconded. Approved 5-0-0.

Updates

Ms. Walker informed the committee that the Farmer's Market will be restricted to food because of the Covid-19 pandemic. No community tents will be available this year. Ms. Walker recommended that the committee consider alternatives for public outreach.

Mr. St Germain attended a webinar on public outreach.

Ms. Kinsman noted Tewksbury's activities on its website and social media on six topics with short messaging. Ms. Kinsman stated that Ashland's new communications director, Ashley Place, might be available to assist with messaging. She also informed the committee that Kevin Langmeyer runs the DPW Facebook page and might be available to teach the committee.

The summer flyer was not included with the water bill mailing.

An article on Stormwater Management appeared in the Ashland newspaper.

Briefing on NPDES MS4 Permit Changes

Several changes to the MS4 permit were noted:

- Changes to the Charles River watershed in terms of standards for water quality, clarification of requirement for remedy within 60 days.
- Allows web sites to be considered public participation
- (Ms. Kinsman noted Select Board looking into enhancing web platform, Civic Plus)

Discussion and Vote on Conservation Land Exemption

Mr. St Germain raised a discussion on exempting land conservations from the Stormwater fee. He noted that there are ten parcels in town owned by conservation groups, and that the Stormwater fee was deterring consideration from some groups about acquiring land in Ashland. A robust discussion was held concerning the merits of other organizations in town equally deserving, that some property owners had conservation restrictions on their parcels, etc. Following the discussion, a motion to table the discussion to further assess the potential impact was made, seconded, and approved on a 5-0-0 vote.

Bylaws and IDDE Changes

Mr. Evan White reported to the committee the need for changes to the exiting bylaws and IDDE concerning construction inspections and other items. Mr. White will review and comment before bringing a finalized recommendation back to the committee for consideration. Mr. White and Ms. Dos Anjos noted these deficiencies in law and practice:

- Transfer of responsibility on Best Management Practices (BMPs) on completion of construction
- Requirement for transferees to submit required reports to the DPW
- Lack of a complete inventory of existing large BMPs.
- Mr. St Germain proposed a Bylaw/Regulation change for Operations and Maintenance Inspections and reports.

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2020 (Online Meeting via Zoom) at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Documents Discussed

- May 12, 2020 agenda
- Draft minutes of the April 4 meeting
- Proposed stormwater bylaw changes regarding submission of O&M inspection reports