



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Stormwater Advisory Committee Minutes of May 20, 2021 Meeting

Location: Online Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Jeanne Walker, Brian McGrattan, Leah Lester, Preethi Sreeraj, Evan White (ex-officio),

Members Absent: Ned Breed, Maeghan Dos Anjos (ex-officio)

Public Present: None

Call to order at 6:35pm

Approval of Minutes: March 31, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. McGrattan to accept the draft minutes as submitted. Mrs. Lester seconded the motion. The motion was passed 4-0-0.

Updates and Follow-ups

1. Waushakum Update
Mr. White reported that much progress has been made, but suggested that the full update be tabled until Ms. Dos Anjos is present.
2. Legacy Farms Violation
Mr. White reported that the Legacy Farms development in Hopkinton caused a violation by allowing run-off from the development to enter the Hopkinton Reservoir, potentially impairing the Ashland Town water supply. Legacy Farms is upslope to the reservoir, and heavy rain undermined the silt fence, enabling the silt to enter the reservoir. The silt fence has been restored, and additional fill added at the places where the fence had been undermined. This action by the developer seems to have solved the problem.

Articles to the Local Pages – Appointee

Discussion was tabled until the full committee is present. A suggestion was made by Ms. Walker to be discussed at a later meeting to submit the short videos on storm water and sewer systems, along with others made by Mr. St. Germain to WACA for airing.

Programming at Schools

Mrs. Lester informed the committee that she will be unable to coordinate the educational outreach due to accepting a full time position. However, she will reach out to the schools to see if they would consider the outreach in light of the more immediate needs of students following the pandemic. If the school administration is willing, several committee members are able to assist.

Other Business

Ms. Walker informed that the committee that the Farmer's Market will be fully open this summer and it will again host a community tent. Ms. Walker requested that each committee member send her three dates where they would be willing to man the tent for SWAC.

Sites for Retrofitting BMPs

Mr. White presented each of the sites in the table overleaf as potential opportunities in installing BMPs to manage stormwater. The list of sites was developed by Mr. White, with assistance by Fuss & O'Neill. The table cells highlighted in green are phosphorus impaired sites. In general, the possibilities include one of the following:

- Dry wells: replacement of existing storm drains with dry wells, with overflow into the stormwater system.
- Rain Garden: construction of land scape features designed to increase infiltration to the ground water.
- Bioswales: channels designed to concentrate and convey stormwater runoff while removing debris and pollution.

The recommendations and relative merits of each solution were presented.

Mr. White requested that the committee work with him to reduce the list to five sites.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm and be conducted as an online meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. McGrattan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 4-0-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Documents Referenced

- May 20, 2021 posted agenda
- March 31, 2021 draft minutes

Appendix: BMP Sites

Site #	Site Name	Phosphorus Impaired	Project	Comments
1	Henry Warren Elementary School	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry wells: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Within the parking lot ◦ Adjacent to the playground where downspouts are directly discharging to pavement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optional: instead of dry wells underground and pipe downspouts to existing catch basins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Back corner of school by existing catch basin ◦ Front corner near side door entrance - Optional: depending on sizing calculation, could implement a rain garden over the catch basin • Rain gardens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ One to two rain gardens at back grassy area of school, with opportunities for student interaction. Connect to existing catch basins. ◦ Optional: curb cut along western edge of parking area and grassy area in front of the school (south) and install rain gardens • Pavement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Regrade sidewalk at front corner near side door entrance to slope towards catch basin 	Site is located within phosphorus impaired area; high visibility and educational value; parking lot is dangerous in winter; heavy erosion by parking lot and playground edge
2	Stone Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioswales/rain garden along edge of Cherry Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Upgrade capacity of existing drywell by pavilion (depending on capacity of bioswales at Summer Street) • Rain garden vegetated with native pollinator plants along edges of community garden • Dry well behind bleachers next to basketball court • Dry wells along Park Road near community garden • Bioretention/rain garden at “triangle” between the two walking paths running north from the Summer Street parking lot 	Community involvement; groundwater recharge; undersized dry well causes routine flooding; parking along side street eroding grass and creating divots that pool water
3	Ashland Public Parking		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry wells at parking lot • Bioswales along Main Street – implement with paving and new sidewalk plans • Optional: Take 2-4 parking spots at low points, remove pavement, install bioswales 	Main Street is being renovated sometime in 2022. These plans will need to be incorporated into the design of the new roads and sidewalks
4	Town Hall		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry wells in parking area – take existing catch basins offline that discharge to Trolley Brook • Bioretention curb bump-out (traffic calming) planters along Main Street 	Main Street is being renovated sometime in 2022. These plans will need to be incorporated into the design of the new roads and sidewalks. Taking catch basins offline will reduce water entering Trolley Brook culvert.
5	Parking Lot by Apartments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioretention island in center of parking lot (make parking lot one-way) • Bioretention by gravel areas at parking lot entrance • Fix clogged catch basin across the street – use as overflow for new practices 	Known area of flooding; drains to Trolley Brook culvert
6	ROW #2	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry wells along Lakeside Drive (near boat launch and driveway that directly discharges to Waushakum Pond) or bump out on Lakeside drive, install bioswale to capture runoff • Bioswales within ROW along Waushakum Ave 	Within Phosphorous impaired area, flows directly discharge to Waushakum Pond in some locations, existing space available for bioswales and replacing sidewalks which are degrading. Would need to determine water table height to see if underground practices are feasible.
7	Middle School		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry wells near basketball court and concession stand to address existing standing water • Formalize a service road to concession stand to limit erosion and hardening of larger grass area • Dry well to treat runoff to swale behind bleachers and concession stand 	Lack of space limits viability of above-ground practices. Need to confirm locations and drainage areas of existing dry wells.
8	William Pittaway School		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry well by gutters near garage • Increase size of gutters – currently overflowing onto pavement • Dry wells in parking lot 	School may be converted to another use, restoration will depend on future use of building. Above-ground practices are not viable due to lack of space. Garage is a known flooding location.

				Need to confirm location and drainage areas of existing dry wells.
9	Ashland Recreation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry wells at existing catch basins in parking lot • Rain barrels to collect water for community garden at side of building • Bioswales/rain gardens at corner of parking lot entrance 	Many electrical obstacles in green space, lower parking lot area would need to be repaved before implementing practices there
10	DPW/Sudbury Road		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioretention swale along Ponderosa Road leading to divert to existing detention basin • Sediment forebay along west side of Ponderosa Road to capture sediment • Underground sand filter to capture and filter runoff from on-site fueling station • Retaining wall along sand pit to contain sediment • Formalize washout area, install Tight Tank to capture contaminants • Upgrade existing swale along northern border of DPA by enlarging swale and installing check dams and salt tolerant native vegetation • Install dry wells along Sudbury Road to capture runoff contributing to flooding of DPW emergency exit • Vegetated berm along southeast corner of property to prevent deposition of sediment in wooded area 	Practices implemented at this location may not qualify for MS4 credit due to lack of storm basins draining the main portion of the property; Observation of drainage is needed to confirm flooding is coming from Sudbury Road