

TOWN OF HAMPDEN

MASSACHUSETTS

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Stormwater Committee
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Gary Weiner, Chair
Mark Langone
John Matthews
John Plaster
Andrew Netherwood
Dena Grochmal
Karl Sternberg

Stormwater Committee Regular Meeting Minutes November 7, 2019

Approved on 9/17/20

Board Members Present: Gary Weiner, Chair; John Plaster, Andrew Netherwood, Karl Sternberg, Mark Langone, John Matthew

Gary called the meeting to order at 5:05pm. Mark gave an update on the outfall sampling of the designated stormwater area. To date, they have completed two and a half days of dry weather sampling which includes 68 outfalls in the urbanized zone. They also located 57 others, but there are 8 they are still looking for. Mark has set up an account with the laboratory and samples are being picked up twice a day from the Highway Department. The bills from the lab will be sent right to the town of Hampden. There is only a half a day left of sampling to complete. Mark will keep everyone updated on the dry weather sampling progress.

It was suggested that the committee meet with Conservation and Planning before the Stormwater regulations are finalized. The committee needs to update them on the new permit and discuss any input from these committees regarding the permitting process. Since the last meeting, Gary had asked everyone to look at the stormwater regulations as there are some areas to discuss, such as designating a stormwater agent to the town. The Building Inspector agreed to be the stormwater agent and has the stormwater permits. He is already anticipating that there are current projects that will need stormwater permits.

The committee also needs to set up a revolving account for permit fees as well as funds for emergency clean up in instances where Mark would hire someone to clean up from a stormwater project. While the committee can present at the annual town meeting to transfer money from an account, there is a chance it could be a self-sustaining account. Gary will talk to the Treasurer, Accountant and Building Inspector about this.

The bylaw has been put together and all the important points have been addressed. The committee discussed the definition of who is the "designated agent" and will work in conjunction with Conservation and Planning because there is an overlap with other departments when addressing stormwater concerns. The committee also discussed that they should perhaps add something to the bylaw to say that the designated agent is subject to change and therefore prevent having to get the bylaw changed in the future.

The committee reviewed Section 3 of the bylaw that addresses "Applicability." Permits need to be approved by the Building Inspector, or in this case the "designated agent", in conjunction with Planning, Conservation and Stormwater.

Agricultural activities had been left out as an exemption from the bylaw even though it should already be in the bylaw especially when it concerns major projects. Examples of agricultural activity exemptions include gardening and farming. There needs to be a better definition of "agricultural activities" and the committee will consult with Wilbraham about the term as well as if they have an exemption for logging. Under enforcement, the Building Inspector has the right to issue tickets if needed. Mark can send out letters, but he cannot give tickets. There could be cases where a homeowner is exempt from permit fees but still needs to fill out a permit, so they are responsible should there be a stormwater issue.

Lastly, the committee reviewed "Permit Procedures and Requirements". One of the sentences in this section was questioned as it says, "the designated agent will show permits to the town engineer." The sentence was re-phrased to take out "town engineer" and replace it with "the designated agent shall refer copies to the appropriate board commission and departments for review." The time frame of when an application is submitted for review by the appropriate departments and approval time was changed from 21 days to 14 days. John will talk to the Building Inspector about creating a checklist for applicants about the permit approval process.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 5th at 5pm. Gary will reword the changes to the bylaw and will have it ready for the next meeting. The committee is also going to schedule a meeting with both the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission in January.

Gary made a motion to adjourn, Karl 2nd. All in favor 6-0.

Submitted by Kristen Gumlaw