

Tavistock Flood Prevention Working Group

Meeting Notes

Thursday, October 13, 2005
7:00 p.m. Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

1. Called to order at 7:05 by Deputy Mayor Maureen Ralph.
2. Present:
From Council: Don McKay(arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Maureen Ralph, Betty Yeoman
From the Public: Rob Dunn, Murray Straus, Carl Nicklas
From the County: John Braam, Rob Walton
From Township Staff: Dennis O'Neil, Jim Harmer, Jeff Carswell
From RJ Burnside: Paul MacIntyre.
Several members of the public were also present.
3. The agenda was approved.
4. The meeting notes from the last meeting were approved.
5. Dennis O'Neil provided the group with an update on the following matters:
 - a. Area west of Janelle – he has looked at it, but the corn needs to come off before it can be investigated and elevations taken
 - b. Updated the group on the Bender Subdivision Drainage Petition and his meeting with Dietrich Engineering
 - c. The corn north of Bender Subdivision needs to come off before the engineer can begin surveying and determining elevations
 - d. The group discussed the site meetings for the drainage petition. Since it is a road petition, just the road authority needs to participate in the site meetings; however, it was the consensus of the group that the meetings should be open to the public and the meeting dates made available on the Tavistock Flood Prevention Working Group website. **Action** – Bender Subdivision Roads Drainage Petition site meetings to be posted publicly and interested persons be permitted to attend.
 - e. Murray Straus advised there may be a washout in the drain behind his place. **Action** – Jim/Dennis to investigate
6. Paul MacIntyre from R.J. Burnside updated the working group on the following matters:
 - a. reviewed the data collected to date from the surveys and his homeowner visits
 - b. reviewed the options and information being presented to homeowners
 - c. discussed several unique situations that have been investigated

- d. advised the group one of the most common questions being asked by homeowners is “Will the Township pay for the costs to disconnect?”
 - e. advised he is noting other property issues such as downspout connections, lot grading, etc.
 - f. Nancy will be reviewing the questionnaires and information he gathers from the site visits, along with information from past storm events to try and determine any trends or problem areas. **Action** – R.J. Burnside to report to the group on trends and/or trouble areas
7. Other Business:
- a. Murray Straus asked about the open ditch portion of the outlet. Dietrich Engineering will be looking at the open ditch as part of the drainage petition work.
 - b. Rob Walton provided an update on information the County has been able to gather on operation of the sanitary sewer system during the last storm and how it compared to 2002
 - c. Murray Straus asked about maintenance of the Sanitary Sewer system. Rob Walton responded to the inquiry.
 - d. The group discussed the efficiency of the sanitary sewer system pumps and whether a reduction in efficiency could contribute to problems.
 - e. There were questions about a recent blockage in the sanitary system and whether that was caused by a lack of maintenance. Rob Walton responded that the recent blockage was not due to a lack of maintenance and was fixed quickly upon notification.
 - f. There were questions about a sanitary sewer problem on William Street. This matter was on private property and not part of the county’s system.
 - g. Murray Straus asked about the storm/sanitary connections at Hergott’s. The working group was advised of the situation and the possible mistakes that can take place during construction of a house. There is not a universal marking to distinguish between sanitary sewers and storm sewers. In the Bender Subdivision, the storm and sanitary sewers are at similar elevations.
 - h. The group discussed the need for education and communicating the fact that as people disconnect from the system, other properties that have not been affected, may be in the future
 - i. Murray Straus asked about the possibility of Shakespeare’s waste water going to the Tavistock sanitary system. Rob Walton advised that if it did, there would be a direct connection to the lagoon and it would not be tied into the existing sanitary collection system.
 - j. The group discussed the downspout disconnect program and whether connections have been reconnected. Paul MacIntyre advised he does look at downspouts when visiting properties and hasn’t noticed any illegal connections. **Action** - Staff advised they are not aware of any records of the previous disconnection program, but will further try to determine if they exist and if so, where they may be.

8. The next meeting will be held November 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Arena.
9. The working group adjourned at 8:30 p.m.