

Draft copy of April 8th, 2013 Minutes of Water Mill CAC
Minutes are not official until reviewed by WMCAC
members and
approved at next scheduled meeting
Web site-www.ourwatermill.org

Members present: Rachel Verno, Steve Abramson, Marlene Haresign, Steve Lerner and Gloria Rabinowitz

The minutes of March were approved.

MILL POND/DEERFIELD ROAD STORM WATER ABATEMENT

-With the first application on Phoslock completed, the CAC's primary concentration is now with the Storm Water abatement plan for Deerfield Road. The CAC is concerned that without a plan for containing road runoff, all efforts regarding the application of Phoslock will have been for nothing. It is alarming that Cashin and Associates was putting together a plan for Deerfield Rd back in early 2011 and at the same time, Mike Collins and John La Rosa from the Town's Engineering office were in the process of making the DEC applications and negotiating with landowners on Deerfield Road regarding the plans. In the most recent email exchange with Christine Fetten, it was revealed that the DEC permits have only recently been submitted and this is only for the re-piping of storm drains. Negotiations with the land owners needed to properly complete the necessary drainage, is still not complete.

THE CURRENT TARGET DATE TO BEGIN THIS PROJECT IS FALL OF 2013 or SPRING OF 2014. The CAC is feels it is necessary to get this plan in place ASAP because the current drainage situation on Deerfield Road is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable that the Town has committed \$450,000 to the remediation plan of Millpond, but the storm water abatement plan is still unfinished. The CAC was told that these projects would occur simultaneously and the delay is troubling.

-The CAC will ask for a meeting with Christine Fetten and Councilwoman Scalera to discuss an exact timetable for this project.

-In the meantime, Rachel has contacted Alex Gregor's office about cleaning out the existing storm drains that are currently completely clogged. Alex explained the shortage of pump out machines and manpower, but he indicated that Deerfield Road will be put on the schedule. The Town clearly needs a better system for keeping the existing storm drains in working order. It would seem that if the Town doesn't have the proper resources, an outside firm should be hired to handle the overload. The drains on Deerfield Road have not been cleaned out for a year. No pump out was made after hurricane Sandy.

-Discussion about a piece of property on Mill Pond Road that would make sense for the Town and Trustees to consider purchasing and use for collecting runoff. This is an unbuildable lot because of wetlands.

-Additional discussion about the flooding situation on Seven Ponds Road and how that overflow travels down Seven Ponds Towd Road and into Flax Pond and then in to Mill Pond via a culvert. This is troublesome because if the flooding in this area isn't addressed, over time there will be an impact on Mill Pond.

MILLPOND EDUCATION PLAN FOR RESIDENTS:

-The CAC continues to feel it is necessary for the Town to start passing some laws regarding residents who live directly on bodies of water. The residents around Mill Pond have taken it upon themselves to start an education program informing the residents about stopping, or at least limiting, fertilizer and chemical use on lawns. They have set up a group rate for pumping out septic systems on an annual basis, explained the importance of planting a buffer so as to contain run off from entering the pond and limiting the amount of phosphorous in household detergents. An informational flyer will be drafted and sent out to every resident of Water Mill in hopes of educating residents about these issues.

-The CAC will continue to look to the Trustees and Town Board to start drafting legislation that will help set some guidelines around these issues.

INTERSECTION OF RTE. 27/DEERFIELD RD/DAVIDS LANE:

-Over the years, the CAC has pointed out the dangerous conditions at this intersection and the need for a traffic light at this location. This continues to be a serious issue and needs to be addressed by the Town.

-The CAC will draft a letter requesting that this intersection be studied and that some plan of action be made to address our concerns.

-Until a traffic light is installed, the arrows in the center lane should be looked at so as to prevent motorists from entering this lane too early. In both directions this center lane is treacherous because motorists use it as a travel lane instead of just a turning lane. Over the years, the CAC has discussed the possibility of barriers in the center lane, but that would hinder emergency vehicles.

-The CAC has also discussed the possibility of limiting left turns on to the highway off of Davids Lane, but we continue to feel that the safest solution is a traffic light.

-Tom Neely has indicated that the intersection of Head of Pond and Lower Seven Ponds Road will be looked at in the upcoming months. The CAC will ask that the intersection of Old Mill and Head of Pond be included in that study.

-The CAC has also asked that the installation of some type of rumble strip be considered as you enter the hamlet heading East in order to

alert motorists to reduce speed to 30mph. This blind curve continues to be a dangerous stretch of the road, there have been a number of fatal accidents around this location, and excessive speed is the issue. Easthampton has installed rumble strips and they seem to be a cost effective solution.

OTHER BUSINESS:

-The lighting concerns at the Station Road complex have been resolved. In the future the CAC will ask the Planning Board to stipulate earlier hours for turning off outdoor lighting on commercial developments. Currently 11:30 pm is what was approved on this project. The owner has agreed to turn the lights off at 9:30, but that may change once the buildings are rented out.

-The CAC has not been receiving any notices for agendas and public hearings from the Planning Board. All other departments send the agendas out via email. In the past the Planning Board has done the same, but that policy has stopped.

-Discussion about the future of the Auerbach property now that so many businesses have left.

-Discussion about the Philip Young property. Several members mentioned that the plans for this property are back in play. CAC will follow up with Rich Warren and the Planning Department.

-Marlene Haresign reported that the funding for a bus shelter on the North Side of Rt. 27 has been approved.

-Discussion about the landscaping in front of the Parish Museum. Since our meeting, an article in the EH Star detailed the landscape plan which will take several years to complete.

Minutes taken by Rachel Verno