

Special Meeting – Site Walk  
June 8, 2011  
Investigation of Flooding  
Occurring at properties located along the Long Meadow Pond Brook  
Proximity of 575 Rubber Avenue

Chairperson Mary Davis called to order this Special Meeting – Site Walk at 11:05 AM with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS:

Mary Davis, Chair  
Joseph Bakstis, Vice Chair  
Sally MacKenzie, Secretary  
Lars Johnson, alternate, absent

OTHERS:

Keith D. Rosenfeld, WEO  
Wayne Zirolli, Borough Engineer

The Commission met at the Borough's HRD Department, located at 575 Rubber Avenue to convene the special meeting to investigate flooding concerns reported at its last regular meeting occurring at properties located in this area of Rubber Avenue. Mrs. Shirley Anderson, 30 Joseph Road stated at that meeting that she owns property on Rubber Avenue has sustained considerable damage due to flooding. Much sediment has had to be removed from her property and she said it has been very costly. She was inquiring if the Borough could find a solution to her problem.

Over the course of the site walk, the group reviewed 4 sections of the brook, including the portion adjacent to both the HRD property and Anderson property, an area adjacent to the high school and the portion which flows along the Mountview Plaza parking lot. The group discussed the following items:

Wayne began the sitewalk by first discussing the possibility of upstream improvements in order to alleviate flooding down stream. He said that building detention areas could provide some relief. It was observed that the land on the Armory property was higher than the bank adjacent to the Anderson property. It also appeared that the stream bed was clear of debris, other than a partly buried tire and rim found in the middle of the brook's bottom. A possible solution to this flooding here could be the installation of a reinforced berm, preventing water from going onto the property. Sediment from the previous high water event was seen left on the lawn.

The group recognized that flooding was problematic in the area due to the fact that much of the land was in the flood zone. Improvements could be made to the brook, but that might only work for a matter of years. Then, the problems would probably reappear.

An Environmental Review Team study could be beneficial, as well as a consultation with the DEP and the Corp of Engineers. It was agreed that the brook needed to be rid of junk and debris. It was suggested that that a "river cleanup" would be beneficial, with property owners working together to clean the brook.

The group then went to the area of the brook adjacent to the high school's entrance. Sediment, primarily street sand was observed along the bank and it was suggested that this could be removed.

Next, the group went to the east end of the Mountview Plaza, adjacent to the high school and block style wall. The group looked at the lack of curbing, the leak offs and accumulated sand, debris and junk along the edge of the brook in this location. Mary Davis said that there are no controls here and that this is a violation of the brook and the commissioners agreed it must be cleaned up. The WEO was told that this is a violation and a letter must be sent to the owners of the plaza, requiring them to clean up the site and possibly add additional controls (catch basins, etc.) to prevent additional problems from taking place in the future.

Lastly, the group assembled at the brook adjacent to the bank's drive up window. It was observed that much debris was in the brook. Tall vegetation filled the waterway and it was suggested that both sides required much cleaning. This might improve the flows in the area and might alleviate the flooding occurring down stream.

No other discussion took place and the meeting was recessed at 12:16 PM to the July 6, 2011 regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Keith D. Rosenfeld, WEO