

## Tavistock Flood Prevention Working Group

### Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 15, 2005  
7:00 p.m. Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

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1. Called to order at 7:05 by Deputy Mayor Maureen Ralph.
2. Present:  
From Council: Don McKay, Maureen Ralph, Betty Yeoman  
From the Public: Rob Dunn, Murray Straus  
From the County: John Braam, Rob Walton  
From Township Staff: Dennis O'Neil, Jim Harmer, Jeff Carswell  
From RJ Burnside: Nancy Roulston and Paul MacIntyre.  
Absent: Public Member Carl Nicklas  
Several members of the public were also present.
3. Mayor Don McKay was selected as Chairperson
4. The Working Group reviewed and agreed on the proposed agenda.
5. The Working Group reviewed and agreed on several procedural matters for operation of the committee. It is anticipated directions, recommendations and decisions of the group will be reached by consensus. The Township CAO will keep meeting notes and coordinate items requiring action.
6. The Working Group discussed the effect the July 16<sup>th</sup> storm has had on the community as a whole and on individuals. Following are several highlights:
  - a. Costs for cleanup and repair
  - b. Insurance costs/ability to get insurance
  - c. Real estate values decreased
  - d. Human stress – Will this happen again? What if I'm away? It is taking me away from other responsibilities.
  - e. Health and Safety – immediate health concerns with respect to cleanup and long-term effects due to mould/mildew
  - f. Loss of use of space
  - g. Lack of communication – residents don't know what is going on, what has been done and what will be done

This identification of issues should help the committee stay focused on the outcome or goal of the working group.

7. The Working Group spent time trying to identify existing information that may be useful. Following are items that may be useful:
  - a. Survey results – the engineer will be providing summarized results on the survey results
  - b. Survey Results correlated to the 2002 survey results
  - c. Information and Reports from the 1992 Storm
  - d. Information and records on actions and improvements made since 1992
  - e. Information and records related to the downspout disconnect program
  - f. Information on the outlet for Tavistock Storm drains
    - Action** – RJ Burnside to provide survey results as soon as possible
    - Action** – staff to begin gathering and posting information that can be made public
  
8. The Working Group discussed a wide range problems observed, suggestions and ideas for improvement. Highlights included:
  - a. Questions about operation of the Sanitary Sewage Pumping Stations
  - b. Surface water in the west part of town – where does it go?
  - c. Has recent work on Sebastbl Road affected surface water flows?
  - d. Dennis O’Neil indicated he will be looking at this area when the corn is harvested. **Action** – Dennis O’Neil to investigate area west of Janelle
  - e. Storm Water Management Systems – ability to hold back additional surface water
  - f. Water was shooting out of the ground due – **Action** - Rob Dunn to try and obtain video of this
  - g. What is the condition of the systems?
  - h. What size of system would be required to handle a storm event like July 16<sup>th</sup>?
  - i. The group discussed individual fixes vs. a system wide fix. Which are achievable or realistic? Which would be more cost effective? It is anticipated information related to this matter will become available as additional engineering work is completed.
  - j. The group was updated on the status of the Drainage Petition for the roads in Bender Subdivision. This process is under way and will follow the procedures in the Drainage Act. Information related to this will also be posted to the Township’s website. **Action** – Drainage Petition information to be forwarded to CAO for inclusion on Township website
  - k. The group discussed the importance of gathering and maintaining information about what improvements are done (either individual or system wide) to build a record that may assist in addressing some of the concerns set out above such as property values and insurance
  - l. The group was updated on the Engineering Advice Program recently approved. Information will be published and sent out in the next few days.
  
9. The Working Group agreed the best way to communicate the work of the committee would be to setup a section on the Township’s website. Staff indicated this would be possible. **Action** – Township staff to setup a section on

the Township's website to provide information, progress and updates on matters related to the July 16<sup>th</sup> storm

10. The group agreed the next meeting should be held in about one month. A tentative date of October 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Arena.

11. Adjourn

Excerpt from September 7, 2005 Council Minutes

Working  
Group  
Formed

8. Moved by Maureen RALPH  
Seconded by Betty YEOMAN  
Resolved that Council form a Working Group comprised of Council, County officials, R.J. Burnside representatives; three (3) Tavistock representatives (public) and Township staff with an inaugural meeting on September 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m;  
And Further that the Working Group's mandate include investigation of problems; working with the engineer; public communication; development of recommendations and options, and other matters related to recent flooding events in Tavistock.

***CARRIED.***