

## Tavistock Flood Prevention Working Group

### Meeting Notes

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

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1. Called to order at 7:00 by Mayor Don McKay.
2. Present:  
From Council: Don McKay, Betty Yeoman  
From the Public: Rob Dunn, Murray Straus, Carl Nicklas  
From the County: John Braam  
From Township Staff: Dennis O'Neil, Jim Harmer, Jeff Carswell  
From RJ Burnside: Nancy Roulston  
Bill Dietrich from Dietrich Engineering and several members of the public were also present.
3. The agenda was approved with the addition of photos to be presented by Rob Dunn.
4. The meeting notes from the last meeting were approved.
5. Bill Dietrich provided the group with an update on the Drainage Petition for Roads in Bender Subdivision. He advised of the meetings and investigations carried out to date and the next actions he will be investigating. At this time Rob Dunn circulated photos taken of the Shakespeare Drain. The photos showed various areas of the drain that could be potential blocks to water flow. Jim Harmer advised that the Drain has not been cleaned out. Generally, neighbouring property owners initiate a request for drain repairs or clean outs. The Working Group agreed this drain should be reviewed and Jim indicated he could treat this request the same as a neighbouring property owner request. Bill Dietrich advised he will be looking at the Shakespeare Drain as part of his review. **Action** – The Working Group to be kept apprised of the Drainage Petition Process.
6. Nancy Roulston from R.J. Burnside provided an update on the information they collected from the surveys, site visits and their analysis of the information. To date there have been about 38 site visits. From their investigations, most of the problems arose from the weepers filling with water. The water then saturates the area around the footings and travels under the floor. From there it can seep into the basement through cracks, along the edge or from openings such as the sanitary drain clean-out box. Different construction techniques and soil conditions may explain why some houses were affected while others were not. For example, use of stone under footings vs. clay may affect the time for the

water to travel. Back flow preventers on the storm before the water can fill the weepers would also have an effect. It is not possible to determine some of these specific situations from interviews and visual inspection.

The group was advised that the storm sewer will surcharge with a 50 -100 yr storm. Generally the sanitary system should be okay if no storm water is getting in. They suspect the high flows in the sanitary system came from the storm water going down the floor drains which go to the sanitary system.

As for the design of the storm system, the engineers indicated the system in Tavistock is typical for a Village like Tavistock. Newer design standards are eliminating private drain connections which were the design standard when Bender Subdivision was constructed.

Through consultation with the Township, the Engineer has developed suggested options for minimizing the possibility of flooding. The options included complete disconnection from the storm system gravity outlet, pump over the wall into the private drain connection or use of a backflow preventer. The preferred option would be pumping over the wall into a private drain connection with a relief outlet at grade. This option is now the design standard for the new development in the Township. As for the sanitary system, it is recommended that a backflow preventer be installed in an accessible location so it can be checked and maintained on a regular basis.

#### 7. Other Business:

- a. The owner of 164 William Street showed the Working Group photos of the standing water around her property. There was some concern that the church behind her recently created a berm with their parking lot that may be affecting her property. **Action** – Jim and Dennis will investigate.
- b. The group reviewed a brief video supplied by Rob Dunn that showed some of the flooding in Bender Subdivision from 2002.
- c. Murray had questions about the downspout disconnection program. Staff advised the program was completed in 1994; however, records have not been located. John Braam indicated the County currently has a by-law prohibiting downspouts and other connections into the sanitary system. If someone wishes to lodge a complaint about an offender they may do so by contacting the County.
- d. The group discussed several ideas and strategies to communicate the findings and work of the group and engineers. Staff will commence with a flyer summarizing the findings to date, providing information on the recommended action to protect your property, encouragement to all residents (especially in susceptible areas) to disconnect, information on those susceptible areas, education on the storm system, over land flow and other related matters. If possible, it would be beneficial to include information from people that have disconnected and provide some information on local contractors that can do the work. **Action** – staff to

commence with preparing a Flyer that includes the information set out about above.

- e. There was a question about a recent house construction project that hit a spring. Dennis advised they are permitted to connect to a storm catchbasin. This water should not be going to the sanitary system.
8. The next meeting will be held in April at the call of the Chair.
  9. The working group adjourned at 8:30 p.m.