

Tavistock Flood Prevention Working Group

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 2, 2006
6:30 p.m. Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

1. Called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Mayor Don McKay.
2. Present:
From Council: Don McKay, Betty Yeoman, Dave Oliphant
From the Public: Wayne Stock, Murray Straus, Carl Nicklas, Peter & Beverly Vandervliet
From the County: Shahab Shafai
From Township Staff: Dennis O'Neil, Jim Harmer, Brenda Junker
From RJ Burnside: Paul McIntyre
3. The agenda was approved.
4. The meeting notes from the last meeting were approved.
5. Dennis O'Neil updated the group of the status of preliminary plans for the Drainage Petition for Roads in Bender Subdivision. Engineer Bill Dietrich will meeting with Township Staff prior to finalizing the plans. Dennis proposed that the Committee review the plans before the report goes to Council. He also advised that the property at 180 Westwood Ave has been included in the preliminary plans, in response to concerns raised by the owners, the Vandervliets.

Discussion was held as to the wisdom of delaying work so it can be done under provisions of the Drainage Act. Jim Harmer explained that under the Act, the cost of the work would be assessed to those affected ratepayers. If the work is done as a public drain, it would be subject to several types of agency approvals, including an Environmental Assessment, that could take up to two years to complete. Cost of this work would be paid out of general township revenue.

Action – The Working Group to be kept apprised of the progress on Dietrich's drain report.

6. Paul McIntyre from R.J. Burnside provided an update on the information they collected from the surveys, site visits and their analysis of the information. Copies of the interview information has been turned over to the Township. The main problem identified is direct connection between weeping tile and the storm sewer. Township policy states that there is to be no direct connection, but for some homeowners, the solution could be costly. However, these disconnections would

alleviate many of the surcharge problems encountered during large rain storm events.

The information flyer proposed at the November meeting has not been completed. R.J. Burnside can assist in providing information. **Action** – staff to continue with Flyer preparation.

7. Jim Harmer informed the group that the Shakespeare Drain has been cleaned out. Jim & Dennis determined that elevations along the drain are such that with no restrictions to flow capacity, the drain should easily accommodate the runoff from the Bender Ave area, and that once it reaches Lot 35, Con 14, it would overflow into the fields as it was designed to do. The investigation did reveal some problems at the bridge crossing the drain, and Jim has contacted the Engineer to provide further analysis. Wayne Stock inquired as to whether there is a regular maintenance schedule for municipal drains, and would this practice be beneficial? While urban storm sewers are inspected on a regular basis, municipal drains are basically designed to be self-cleaning. If a property owner advises the township that there are problems with a drain on his land, repair work is done at that time, otherwise, because of the vast number of drains in the municipality, they are not inspected regularly.
8. Other Business:
 - a. Jim Harmer was asked if permits have been issued for the disconnects that have taken place to date, and how those properties are being identified. No permits are issued, but Jim has inspected the work being done on each property. **Action** – Jim to prepare list of properties he has inspected.
9. The next meeting will be held to review Bill Dietrich's report at the call of the Chair.
10. The working group adjourned at 7:30 p.m. at which time site visits were made to the outlet of the Shakespeare Drain, the Strauss property at 112 Rudy Ave, and the Vandervliet property at 180 Westwood Ave.