

Lunenburg Stormwater Task Force Minutes
January 18, 2024

Dept. of Public Works Building
520 Chase Road
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Present Members: Chair Timothy Willsmer, Member John Beale, DPW Director Bill Bernard, Selectboard Representative Renee Emkey

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

I. BOARD DISCUSSION

- Review of materials provided by Chelmsford Storm Water Utility
Unlike Lunenburg, Chelmsford includes a flat annual fee that's added to resident's sewer bill specifically for stormwater utilities. Tim Willsmer suggests this may be the simplest way to go.

The committee will reach out to the Town Manager for additional input.

- MA Asset management grant, next steps.

Tim Willsmer has the following questions for the committee:

- What are the steps for funding?
- What is needed to start an enterprise fund?
- How do we assess fees?
- What are associated costs?
- Will funding be used for hiring additional personnel?

Bill Bernard confirms that there are community compact grants that may be applicable.

Renee Emkey believes that the task force should reach out to the Town Manager for information about the process and next steps regarding funding.

Renee Emkey also questions if CEI has worked with other towns to implement stormwater utilities. Bill Bernard confirms that CEI does have that experience.

The ultimate goal of the task force is to have something to provide for the 2025 town meeting.

John Beale questions if there is anything that residents can do to be proactive. Bill Bernard states that specifically Chelmsford has a stormwater BMP. If there is an operation and maintenance plan, then residents get a discount on their rates yearly. This would then need to add additional personnel to complete assessments. Regarding information for residents, Bill Bernard confirms that there is stormwater related information available on the DPW Facebook page.

II. UPCOMING MEETING/EVENTS SCHEDULE

The committee is requesting CEI attend an upcoming meeting for a discussion and to answer questions. After, if there are still unanswered questions then the Committee will reach out to the Town Manager for guidance.

There was an inquiry by the task force regarding the approval of meeting minutes. This topic will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15th at 7:00 PM at the Lunenburg DPW building.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Menard- 672 Page Street- spoke regarding the flooding on Page Street and subsequently in her basement. There is damage being caused to properties, Beaver Brook, and the road. The Village of Flat Hill has a stormwater retention pond that hasn't been maintained and is not working properly. There are private sump pumps and stormwater draining directly into the storm water system. The drains were cleaned after the storm on September 11. Ultimately Karen Menard doesn't agree that the systems are working properly and that there is something else causing the issue. Karen Menard has talked to Bill Bernard on numerous occasions. Bill Bernard puts emphasis on this is why the town needs stormwater utilities. Renee Emkey asks if the issues have come before the Select Board. Karen Menard states this is a complicated issue because the town doesn't own the nearby property as it's part of a HOA.

Renee Emkey questions if sump pumps are allowed to discharge onto the roads. Bill Bernard confirms that shouldn't be happening.

IV. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn meeting by Renee Emkey, seconded by John Beale. All in favor.

The meeting closed at 7:53 PM.