



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2019 5:00-6:45 p.m.

Members in attendance: Daniel Michael, Eldon Kurtz, Rob Alexander, Richard Baugh, Dale Chestnut

Staff in attendance: Tom Hartman, Rebecca Stimson, Keith Thomas, Dan Rublee

Others in attendance: Ms. Jeanette Kelly (732 Woodland Dr), Ms. Phyllis Liskey and Ms. Peggy Kennedy (1720 Country Club Rd)

Review and Adopt Minutes

Eldon called for a motion to adopt the February 2019 SWAC meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

SLAF Applications

Staff resubmitted SLAF applications in November for the E. Market Street, Northend Greenway, Thomas Harrison Middle School, and VMRC projects.

Rebecca gave an update on the Northend Greenway stream restoration to note that the tributary is completed.

HCAP Updates

After the first round of applications, 5 applications were approved for project funding. A total of \$33,537.00 was allocated in the first round. There remains \$46,463.00 available for second round applications. Staff have been working to advertise the program for the second round.

Tom mentioned that HCAP was nominated for an award for innovative programs. Staff will be traveling to the annual conference in May to share how we have utilized the program to meet local needs.

Drainage Improvement Program

Woodland Drive Public Comment

Ms. Kelly- Informed the SWAC members that there is a river that runs past her house a lot. She also noted it has flooded her crawlspace in the past.

Woodland Drive Application Review & Next Steps

Rebecca noted that landowners have reached out to her about stormwater runoff in the neighborhood. There are two issues represented by Ms. Harris and Ms. Kelly. The first issue is along the drainage path between Reservoir and Woodland Dr. Ms. Harris, through meetings with staff and the application has expressed concerns that the drainage ditch between Woodland Dr and Reservoir St leading to Sunchase Apartments is not adequate in size and will back up onto the road flowing towards her driveway and

house. The second issue is concerns from a drainage path that leads from Foley Rd to Woodland Dr. The property owner has expressed concern that stormwater from Foley Rd is unmitigated as it flows down to her property and onto the road. Tom noted that the program must weigh the cost and benefits of projects. The drainage path from Foley Rd to 732 Woodland Dr is something that we are not considering at this time due to new development of property in between Foley Rd and Woodland Dr. Tom stated he would like to see how the stormwater runoff will be impacted by the site plan. At a future time, we can come back to re-evaluate the issues identified.

Rob made the motion to move to accept the application regarding the first issue for further investigation, Dale seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Rebecca advised that the next step will be to coordinate a neighborhood meeting to explain which projects have been accepted and why as well as why staff are not working on the second.

Country Club Road Public Comment

Ms. Liskey noted that when they first bought the property, they used to mow the swale which was only 1-2 feet deep. Now they cannot access their back lot anymore. She also stated that on their July 7, 1995 tax record there appeared a notation to that said "100 foot deep but still ok." The property owners stated their taxes have been reduced due to the erosion. Ms. Kennedy noted that even when it does not rain, the banks still are eroding away.

Country Club Road Application Review & Next Steps

The property owners at 1720 Country Club Rd are particularly concerned about losing property due to eroding banks. The property is located at bend in creek. Additionally, there is a culvert outfall at the bend that could be contributing to some of the stated problems. The property has an easement in place that prevents the owners from impeding the flow of water. The Stormwater Improvement Plan identified this location (identified as "HB-3" or "Mall Creek – Country Club Road") as a potential location of a stream restoration. The project was ranked 7th on list. Rebecca asked the Committee to consider the Outlet Stabilization criteria approved on October 15, 2019. The idea would be to use the outlet stabilization around the culvert which shows signs of erosion around it. Rebecca noted that staff recommends moving forward with this application due to the erosion issues and loss of property.

Dan questioned if the outlet stabilization is the path to go forward because he does not think that is the problem. He also noted the landowner comments signaled the main drainage problem was the result of water from the south side of Country Club Rd. Dan noted that this watershed is mostly developed while the watershed above the Georges outlet pipe is mostly undeveloped.

Dale made the motion to move to accept the application for further investigation, Eldon seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Rebecca advised that the next step will be to coordinate a neighborhood meeting to include Georges about potential work around the outlet pipe.

Cardinal Drive Public Comment

No public comment

Cardinal Drive Application Review & Next Steps

Rebecca noted that she has informed the property owners that staff are not recommending the application to go forward. Rebecca advised that she set up a meeting with the property owners to review the application and the reasons it was being denied. The property owners did not attend the meeting.

Rebecca explained that staff are not recommending the application to move forward because the property owners' main complaint was floodwater destroying their backyard fence and damaging a backyard shed. The property owners wanted the City to do something to slow or reduce the water in the stream. Since the area is in the floodway, we cannot do work that would impede the flow. Additionally, the only way to slow water in this area, would be to expand the floodplain which would exacerbate the problem. Dale noted staff could recommend them to go to FEMA to see if they would want to buy back their property since it is in the floodplain.

Dale made the motion to move to approve the application for further investigation, Rob seconded. By unanimous vote, the motion failed.

Newman Ave Public Comment

No Public comment

Newman Ave Application Review & Next Steps

Property owner at 285 Newman Ave expressed concern over older stormwater pipe behind the houses on the south side of Newman Ave. He believes there may be a blockage in the pipe. Dan suggested the next step would be to tv the pipe to determine if any blockages are present. Dan also suggested this problem might be common in other older neighborhoods. Rebecca noted that staff recommend the application for approval to investigate the pipe and determine if any blockages are present and determine what repairs or upgrades are needed.

Rob asked if staff had any plans to proactively go out and look for problems. Rebecca responded that at this time only those who complete and submit an application will be considered under this program. Tom added that staff will work with landowners to assist with the application process if they need help. Rob noted that he wanted to see us think about what barriers there might be to the program. He brought up that places that are mainly renters might not think about this program or that they could qualify.

Dale made the motion to move to accept the application for further investigation, Eldon seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Other Topics

Staff have updated the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan. Rebecca noted that the major change was to address the expected new methodology for calculating street sweeping credits. After two weeks of public comment, staff submitted the Action Plan to DEQ. Rebecca noted future revisions may be needed since DEQ is considering the idea of removing the septic to sanity BMP credit.

Next Steps

2020 Dates

- February 5, 2020
- May 6, 2020
- August 5, 2020
- November 4, 2020