

FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee was held at the Municipality of Colchester Council Chambers on May 14, 2019 at 11:00 am.

- Present:** Councillor Ron Cavanaugh, Chair
Mayor Christine Blair
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs
Councillor Eric Boutilier
- Hank Kolstee, Citizen Representative
Laurie Sandeson, Citizen Representative
- Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works
Rod MacLennan, Project Supervisor / Consultant
- Carl Esau, Manager, Land Protection, Department of Agriculture
Charlotte Sullivan, Environmental Inspector, NS Environment
- Regrets:** Robyn Homans, Area Manager, NSTIR
- Approval of Agenda:** An agenda was prepared and circulated for the Committee's review and approval. Committee approved the agenda as presented.
- Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting held on April 2, 2019 were circulated for the Committee's review and approval.
- Moved by: Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by: Hank Kolstee
- "That the Minutes from the meeting on April 2, 2019 be approved as presented."
- Motion carried.
- Business Arising from the Minutes:** None.
- New Applications:** None.
- Salmon River Road Property:** An Order was placed on the property to remove the chassis as it was determined to be Dangerous and Unsightly. The owner complied with the Order and the file is closed.
- Michelle Newell had discussions with Kelly McNally, Inspector with NS Environment (NSE). NSE defines a salvage yard as an active area consisting of a minimum of 0.25 hectares with evidence that vehicles are being taken apart on site. Salvage yards do require an Operating Approval from NSE. Inspections are not carried out unless the minimum area is met and vehicles are being salvaged or there is evidence of spills and releases occurring on site. They did

not feel a site visit was warranted to the Salmon River Road property as there was not sufficient evidence to show that a spill or release was occurring. NSE currently does not have regulations on storage of vehicles within watersheds.

Gasper Cross Road – Update:

Michelle discussed with TIR their plans to repave Gasper Cross Road as part of the East Prince Street paving project this year and what, if anything can be done at the same time to alleviate flooding.

Historical information shows that runoff used to flow from the subdivision across East Prince Street, through a cross culvert, through a wooded area and into the brook on the CN Rail property. However, in the last 5-10 years, the watercourse was rerouted from the wooded area into a 90 degree turn and into the ditch on Gasper Cross Road causing water to wash out the shoulders and driveway culverts on Gasper Cross Rd. There is also debris built up in the brook on the CN property which causes flooding issues for the residents at the bottom of Gasper Cross Road. The FAC has had no cooperation from CN Rail to remove the debris from this brook.

This drainage way crossing East Prince and entering the ditch on Gasper Cross Road is now recognized as a watercourse so TIR does not have authority to maintain the ditches along this road. Michelle discussed with NSE and DFO the possibility of realigning the watercourse to its original location but because so much time has passed and a new alignment has been formed, neither have regulations or enforcement to support this. The Committee could explore the option of approaching the adjacent property owners to discuss the potential watercourse realignment.

A solution has not been identified at this time so TIR will move forward with the paving. The paving project will not interfere with any plans that the Committee may have to re align the watercourse at a later time. TIR will be replacing the cross culvert on East Prince, but will not be doing any work on private property.

Moved by: Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by: Councillor Boutilier

“That the Flood Advisory Committee authorizes Staff to approach the property owners and have discussions on the possible realignment of the watercourse on Gasper Cross Road.”

Motion carried.

Review of Projects:

The following updates were made to the project list:

Baxter:

- Rod to provide cost estimate for berm

Hilden Fire Hall:

- Need Release Form signed

Law:

- Property listed as residential; County share to remain as 75%

Portapique Cemetery:

- Rod reviewed again on Saturday – no change
- Schedule another site visit in late summer/early fall
- DNR may be looking at new regulations regarding coastal erosion

Franklin:

- Rod to renew DFO approval
- FRIP application submitted last week

MacAskill:

- Need Release and Cost Sharing forms signed

Logan:

- Not complete yet; waiting for dry conditions
- No approval required
- Release and cost sharing forms signed

Swan:

- Site visit carried out by C. Boutilier, Rod and Robyn
- Many issues contributing to flooding including blocked culverts and only a few driveways having culverts installed
- Water seems to be flowing across the road culverts and pooling onto private properties as there is nowhere for the water to go
- Swan property was previously infilled from a past owner – could be contributing to the problem
- Could look at ditching along private properties to direct the flow of water from the ditches
- TIR to review the drainage here first before determining how to proceed – Michelle to contact Robyn for an update
- Rod to arrange a future site visit with Eric, Ron, Robyn and the residents

Pam Atkinson requested that the County review the drainage way on her property on Hillcrest Avenue. Rod completed a site visit and was also aware of issues in the past. The existing drainage way has not been maintained and directs flows from St. David's to Allison to Hillcrest and across her property onto the Stonehouse property. The Committee directed staff to send Ms. Atkinson a letter, policy and an application before the project can be considered or added to the list.

The Committee needs to review the scope of work that falls under the definition of flooding as stormwater requests are coming in more frequently. If stormwater projects are being completed by the

Committee, then it could be setting a precedent for all future stormwater requests. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Budget 2019/20:

Council approved a budget of \$100,000 for 2019/20.

**FRIP Application
2019/20:**

An application was submitted for the Franklin property and information should be received from the program in approximately one month.

**Status of Payments
from Property Owners -
Collections:**

At their last meeting, the Committee discussed the possibility of sending the outstanding accounts to collections. There is a 25% fee that the collector obtains on each account. It was suggested that one final letter be sent to those owners in default with a cut-off date before sending to collections.

Moved by: Councillor Boutilier
Seconded by: Hank Kolstee

“That the Flood Advisory Committee authorizes Staff to send final letters to Comeau/Upham, Meyer and Mattatall to secure payment by a certain date before sending to collections.”

Motion carried.

Tenders:

In the past, tenders were publicly issued for armour rock and heavy equipment quotes. However, due to the decrease in the number of projects and costs, it was suggested that we proceed with obtaining hourly quotes for all projects except the Franklin property; which will require three quotes following the County’s purchasing policy. The Committee agreed to proceed with this approach.

**Newsletter
Submission:**

As per the Committee’s recommendations, an article was included in the recent newsletter outlining flood project highlights. It was suggested that future articles include the property owner’s cost shared amounts, but this could violate privacy concerns. However, a statement could be included that says “cost-shared with owners.”

New Business:

None.

Future Meeting Dates:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 11:00 am.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Crystal Deuille,
Recording Secretary