

FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee was held at the Municipality of Colchester Council Chambers on June 27, 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. The following additions were made:

- 9a. Email from Councillor MacKenzie - Springwaters Place
- 9b. Gasper Cross
- 9c. Stormwater Issue - College Road

Committee approved the agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting held on May 14, 2019 were circulated for the Committee's review and approval.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee
Seconded by: Councillor Boutilier

"That the Minutes from the meeting on May 14, 2019 be approved as presented."

Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes: None.

Discussion - Flooding vs. Stormwater: The purpose of this item was for the Committee to have preliminary discussions on its mandate, terms of reference and policy and to determine what is considered a flood project and whether there is a need to revise any of these documents.

Existing documents don't fully define the meaning of a flood project and if stormwater management falls within the scope of flood

mitigation. In the past, work was completed on those properties bordering rivers, brooks and streams but now there is a significant increase in applications being received for stormwater management related issues. The Committee will need to determine if these types of projects fall under their mandate.

Currently there are four properties/locations being affected by stormwater issues; College Road, Hillcrest Avenue, Gasper Cross and Springwaters Place.

The following points of discussion were noted:

- Stormwater issues should be part of the Land Use Bylaw which was recommended by Council to be updated in 2010;
- Stormwater related issues should not fall under the FAC;
- Could approach it so that if a major brook was not involved, then up to homeowners;
- Could look at a drainage policy similar to what Department of Agriculture had in the past;
- Need to review how stormwater is dealt with in new developments;
- Remove development of a stormwater master plan from the Committee's terms of reference as it is an engineering and planning responsibility.

As this is an issue which requires additional discussion before making any decisions, it was suggested that staff draft some suggestions for the Committee's review before a recommendation is made to Council.

Moved by: Councillor Boutilier

Seconded by: Councillor Gibbs

"That the Flood Advisory Committee directs staff to propose changes to their Terms of Reference, for review at the next meeting."

Motion carried.

**Hillcrest Avenue
Stormwater:**

Applications must be submitted by property owners before they are considered as a potential project. As discussed at the last meeting, an application form was sent to the resident and to date an application has not been received. The resident has since approached the Village of Bible Hill for assistance who have requested financial assistance from the County. No cost sharing amounts were discussed but it could be assumed it would be a 50/50 split similar to past projects.

The homeowner has already expressed that they are not willing to cost share on this. The Committee discussed the issues with the

project being 100% funded with no contributions from property owner; no application received to date; and the fact that it is a stormwater problem. The Committee decided to leave as pending until a formal application has been received.

New Applications:

Uttaro:

- Site visit complete
- Not a high priority - active erosion not being caused by river
- Issue with trees halfway up the bank - falling into river and leaving large holes in bank
- Recommended to owner to remove trees as this is not part of the Committee's mandate

Langille:

- Brook crosses under driveway and floods out driveway
- Could be an issue with size of culvert
- Ron and Rod to do a site visit

Dalhousie University:

- Erosion issues on the Salmon River off Queen Street
- Cost estimate \$70,000 - large scale project
- One section was stabilized 20 years ago which has now failed and is causing water to cut into property

Moved by: Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by: Laurie Sandeson

"That the Flood Advisory Committee refers Dalhousie University's request for work application on the Salmon River to the Joint Flood Advisory Committee for consideration."

Motion carried.

Review of Projects:

The following updates were made to the project list:

Baxter:

- Rod to meet with property owners on willingness to proceed with berm

Law:

- Rod to submit application to NSE

Weatherbee:

- Rod to meet with property owner before proceeding

MacAskill:

- Waiting for dry conditions

Logan:

- Waiting for dry conditions

MacGrath/Clark:

- Rod met with area residents including MacGrath (formerly Swan)
- Email received from TIR - no issue with culverts or ditches
- Requires lowering culverts, clearing culverts and creating drainage ditches through properties
- Cost estimate \$10,000
- Owners to cost share 25% each (\$1,250 each) - forms to be signed
- Wait for dry conditions

Johnson:

- Site visit complete
- Three sites - 400+ feet
- Cost estimate \$15,000

(Mayor Blair left the meeting at 12:38 pm)

**Status of Payments
from Property Owners:**

As discussed at the last meeting, letters were sent to Comeau, Mattatall and Meyer giving them until July 31st to pay their flood accounts before being sent to collections. Copies of the letters were included in the package.

New Business:

Gasper Cross:

With the ongoing flooding issues on Gasper Cross, the Committee could look at exploring other options including purchasing properties, which may be a better use of funds. Staff still to discuss re-routing the brook with the affected property owners which could be a costly project.

(Laurie Sandeson left the meeting at 12:45 pm)

There is no business plan to suggest that it's a good idea to purchase these properties but just something for the Committee to consider as a potential future option.

College Road:

Issue between neighbours involving an outlet from a private pond that is causing water to back up onto Ms. MacMillan's property. Owners have had ongoing issues with water in backyard and have an estimate from a landscaper to construct a swale for \$22,000. Where the County has no lot grading By-law, issues with run-off between neighbouring properties is a civil matter.

Springwaters Place:

Email received from Councillor MacKenzie regarding 110 Springwaters Place. Culvert from First Court drains through the

property to the ditch on Springwaters. Staff have reviewed in the past and determined it was not a County issue as there are no municipal drainage easements and the roads are all owned by the Province. This is similar to the property on Hillcrest Avenue where it is a provincial stormwater issue. Committee to decide once the new mandate/terms of reference is finalized.

Future Meeting Dates: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 11:00 am.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.

Crystal Deuille,
Recording Secretary