

FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee was held at the Municipality of Colchester Council Chambers on September 10, 2019 at 10:00 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

Regrets: Robyn Homans, Area Manager, NSTIR
Carl Esau, Manager, Land Protection, Department of Agriculture
Charlotte Sullivan, Environmental Inspector, NS Environment

Approval of Agenda: An agenda was prepared and circulated for the Committee's review and approval.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee
Seconded by: Laurie Sandeson

"That the agenda be approved as presented."

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meetings held on June 27 and August 28, 2019 were circulated for the Committee's review and approval.

Moved by: Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by: Councillor Boutilier

"That the Minutes from the meetings on June 27 and August 28, 2019 be approved as presented."

Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes: None.

Draft Terms of Reference: The Terms of Reference were circulated at the last meeting for discussion on any revisions required, however no decisions could be made due to lack of quorum. An update was provided on what was discussed at the last meeting as well as any new considerations.

Point #2 under the Mandate states, "*Coordinating the development*

of a storm water master plan including making recommendations to the Council on actions to be taken with respect to policy, capital and operating budgets etc.”

Council previously directed staff to develop a storm water master plan so this function should be left with public works and planning to facilitate. Stormwater master planning should not be a function of the Flood Advisory Committee. Removing this item from the Terms of Reference does not prevent the FAC from looking at storm water issues as long as such issues are covered under the Small Flood Damage Reductions Projects Policy.

Moved by: Mayor Blair
Seconded by: Laurie Sandeson

“That Point #2 under the Mandate of the Flood Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference be removed.”

Motion carried.

**Draft Policy
Definitions:**

Options for addressing and defining stormwater management issues within the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy were discussed at the last meeting. Different options for consideration of such projects were considered, as was the option of eliminating stormwater projects from the Policy entirely.

Under current practices, any runoff issues arising between neighbours is a civil matter and the Municipality does not get involved. There is provincial legislation that deals with runoff and watercourse alterations, but this legislation is antiquated and complex, and not usually enforced.

Different scenarios related to potential changes to the policy definitions were discussed including:

- Continue with completing projects that involve a watercourse (brook, river, stream);
- Include ‘drainage channels’ within the allowable project definitions;
- Look at only those stormwater projects that are larger in scale and affect numerous properties;
- Consider projects which would correct an issue caused by lack of stormwater manager part of larger subdivisions;
- Include stormwater projects if they are directly causing damage by runoff from a brook, drainage way or public right-of-way.

Discussion was also held on the potential increase in applications as well as funds required if the policy is changed to accept stormwater projects. The Committee also needs to be aware that if

stormwater projects are not included within the policy, any applications submitted will not be considered. The Engineering Design Standards include stormwater retention as a requirement for new developments.

The Committee indicated that work should continue along any formal watercourses and could also consider impacts where stormwater is originating from within a public right-of-way. Michelle to make draft revisions to both the Policy and Definitions for the next meeting.

Gasper Cross Road Update:

There is a history of flooding on properties fronting Gasper Cross since the brook has been re-routed. Runoff historically ran towards the CN rail yard but is now directed into the ditches along Gasper Cross Road. The driveway culverts along Gasper Cross do not have the capacity to handle these flows nor can regular maintenance be done as the ditch is now considered a watercourse.

The Committee discussed some possibilities for alleviating the flooding here and directed staff to discuss with property owners as NSE will not approve the relocation of the watercourse. Tim Johnson is not in favour of anything constructed on his property unless it's a culvert system that is entirely buried which would not meet NSE/DFO standards. Ken Upham is in favour of having something done on his property to direct flows away from his commercial building. Rod suggested creating a floodway along the Upham property to direct any overflow back to the brook on the CN Rail property. Ron, Rod and Lloyd to review site and discuss with Mr. Upham and provide an update at the next meeting.

New Applications:

None.

Review of Projects:

The following updates were made to the project list:

Portapique Cemetery:

- Ross Knight in contact with the Mayor and Rod for any updates
- Cemetery Association to explore funding opportunities and advise this Committee when they are successful

MacGrath/Clark:

- Complete

Logan:

- Scheduled for Fall 2019

Dalhousie University applied for assistance with a flood mitigation project along the Salmon River. This project had previously been

referred to the Joint Flood Advisory Committee by FAC. However, the JFAC has not had a meeting since this recommendation was made. Rod applied to NS Environment and has received an approval to carry out the work. Dalhousie University has agreed to contribute \$35,000 towards this project. Rod has been working with Dal on this site, with the intent of completing work valued at \$35,000. Dal and Rod are seeking Committee approval to continue with the rest of the site.

Approximately \$10,000 has been spent so far out of the \$100,000 Committee budget.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee
Seconded by: Councillor Gibbs

“That the Flood Advisory Committee approves proceeding with the Dal AC site, with project costs to be shared 50/50 between the Flood Advisory Committee and Dalhousie, up to a maximum project budget of \$70,000.”

Motion carried.

FRIP Update: No update.

Status of Payments from Property Owners: Payment was received in full from Harold Mattatall leaving just Comeau and Meyer outstanding. The Municipal Solicitor advised that outstanding amounts could be collected in the same manner as property taxes which also means failure to pay can result in the property going for tax sale. Letters should be sent to both Comeau and Meyer informing them of this.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee
Seconded by: Councillor Boutilier

“That the Flood Advisory Committee recommends that finance apply all outstanding flood amounts to their respective property tax accounts and these amounts be collected in the same manner as property taxes.”

Motion carried.

New Business: None.

Future Meeting Dates: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 11:00 am.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

Crystal Deuville,
Recording Secretary