

MINUTES OF MS4 COMMITTEE MEETING
February 9, 2015

Present: Paul Shepherd, John Colby, Billy Banks, Peter Reich, Jay Card,
Chris Tehan, Laury Dowd
Absent: Butch Labrozzi

Laury reviewed a letter sent by Southold to the NYSDEC and EPA that questioned the science underlying the DEC's designation of bodies of water as needing pathogen TMDLs. These alleged impairments are based on waters not impaired by pathogens or allegedly impaired based on outdated, incomplete and inappropriate modeling. Of even greater concern is that Southold has been in communication with the EPA Region 2, who has advised them that the only rescission of a TMDL in Region 2 was done in the 1990s. That means that DEC may not have advised the EPA of the correspondence that the DEC has had with the Town of Shelter Island rescinding the TMDL for Dering Harbor. Hopefully the Southold letter will prompt better communications between the EPA and DEC on these issues.

Next the committee reviewed the DEC Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List of the waterbodies on Shelter Island. The committee reviewed the comments made in this 2010 document which was made without knowledge or input of the Shelter Island community.

The committee considered the recommendations of Highway Superintendent Jay Card re suitable properties to be considered for applications for the Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program, in which grant applications are due 2/20. Jay mentioned reapplying for the Goat Hill runoff mitigation into Chase Creek, as well as possible technologically improved septic system treatment as a demonstration project on a town property. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the various projects. The issue will be further discussed by the Town Board at tomorrow's work session.

The committee then considered some of the recommendations on improvement storm water issues that were recommended in the Southampton water plan. These included limits on impervious surfaces to prevent stormwater and increased vegetative buffers to collect and filter storm water. The committee did not embrace the recommendations.

Laury noted that the MS4 permit was set to expire in April, and that the DEC was proposing a temporary new MS4 permit to allow them to more fully revise the old one. She noted that the MS4 “year” would end early March and that she would be putting together the statistics required for the Annual Report. Jay reported that he had provided training to all of his 16 highway employees on recognizing illicit outfalls. This should better enable the town to identify and end such outfalls.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.
The next meeting is March 9, 2015.

The following Meeting dates for 2015 are:
~~1/12~~, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/19, 11/9, 12/14