

MINUTES OF MS4 COMMITTEE MEETING
May 9, 2016

Present: Jay Card, Laury Dowd, Chris Tehan, Billy Banks, Jim Colligan

The building department confirmed that they have developed a temporary construction driveway spec for all new construction, and distributed it to local contractors that come in for a building permit. The spec ensures that a project is graded properly to avoid dumping dirty stormwater out on the road.

A pre-construction site inspection has not been done for large projects, as the building department says there have been no large projects.

Jay suggested the town impose an extra fee on construction that drains to storm drains, to help pay the cost of cleaning them out. The problem is in determining which projects would trigger that event, since there is inadequate town staff to assess grades and stormwater runoff on each individual project.

Jay also suggested that the mitigation measures required by Chapter 110 on projects involving >1 acre clearing might also be imposed on smaller properties. These include requirements like seeding the temporary dirt mounds to prevent them from creating dirty runoff or generating dust throughout the neighborhood. Laury will share this recommendation with the Town Board.

The committee discussed some of the recent developments in water management, including the development of the Long Island Nitrogen Management Plan. Some felt that it ignores golf courses and farms and focuses on homeowners. Jay explained different types of nitrogen fertilizers, including slow release. He said that the pH of the soil was more important in energizing plans and controlling the pH would be far more effective than fertilizers. The PRFCT Earth Project will be speaking to the Town Board tomorrow about environmentally friendly ways of managing lawns and the committee discussed ways to get this information out to landscapers and homeowners. Jimmy will look for grants to provide education on these issues.

Laury discussed Sag Harbor's plan to use Community Preservation Fund money for shorefront buffer acquisition. The PEPC has provided the town with a model pamphlet for boaters with a lot of information about water quality protection as a perfect vehicle to satisfy the town's Minimum Control Measure I educational requirements. Mary Dudley is working to customize it for Town of Shelter Island boat visitors.

Laury said that the PEPC is overseeing a QAPP RFP pursuant to a grant which would fund development of a water testing standard that would match DEC protocols, so that water quality test results would be accepted by the DEC. With this protocol, towns and other agencies can perform their own water testing and present the results to the DEC to open water bodies and change any misclassifications of waterbody health. It is estimated that development will take 2 years.

Laury also reported that there have been no comments on the MS4 Annual Report to date. The comment period closes on May 20 and the report will be submitted to the DEC before June 1.

The committee discussed some of the water quality grant opportunities that are opening. It was proposed that the town request funding for environmentally innovative options for drywells or boat ramps. Jay will send out specs for some of the new boat ramp designs involving concrete mats that more closely hug the land contours and don't suffer from the dropoffs that often develop on fixed concrete ramps. Jimmy will take this to the grants committee.

The PEPC has provided the town with access to training videos on MS4 issues such as MCM 6 Good Housekeeping and MCM3 Illicit Discharges. Jay will be presenting them to his employees at their next training session. The committee also reviewed a training presentation on goose egg oiling. Jay will ask his employees and ACO Beau Payne to create a log on places where they notice goose chicks, and by acquiring this information the town will be able to determine if there are goose problems that justifying a goose egg oiling program in the town.

The committee continued its review of the town's good housekeeping analysis. The review will be continued at the next meeting.

The meeting dates in 2016 are:

~~1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/17, 11/14, 12/12~~

The meeting adjourned at 3:55pm.

The next meeting will be on June 13, 2016.