

MINUTES OF MS4 COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 10, 2015

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

The Committee discussed the new provision of the recently-issued SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) - GP-0-15-003. The DEC had said that they were reissuing the old permit for a two year term to allow them to redraft it, and that was the only reason they were continuing to list Dering Harbor as an impaired waterbody after their prior commitment to remove it from the list. However the reissued permit now has a clause requiring semi-annual reporting for entities in Appendix 7, Peconic Estuary Pathogen Watersheds which shows Dering Harbor.

The committee noted that there has been no showing of any actual impairment of Dering Harbor, only a potential impairment IF the Shelter Island Heights sewer treatment plant malfunctions. Since there is only “potential impairment”, and the Heights sewer treatment plant is privately owned and beyond the control of the Town of Shelter Island or the Village of Dering Harbor, there is no path to any type of pathogen reduction. It was suggested that the committee invite a DEC representative to meet with the committee to give the town and village a roadmap towards compliance, since the municipalities cannot identify any.

Laury showed the committee that an updated Stormwater Management Design Manual has been issued in January 2015 and encouraged committee members to become familiar with it.

Billy spoke about a possible SWPPP involving lot clearing on Ram Island, but it turned out that the clearing was less than an acre and thus did not trigger a SWPPP. Another enforcement activity is underway for clearing in the vegetative buffer of Fresh Pond. Removal of the buffer makes it easier for stormwater to find its way directly into Fresh Pond.

The committee will participate in the Town’s Environment Fair on August 22, to help educate the public on the negative impacts of stormwater runoff.

Regarding comments given by DEC representatives re the town's filed Annual Report, the committee felt they were vague and unclear. It reiterated the need for illicit discharge detection and elimination and the town feels it is complying. All highway and other town personnel are required to report any illicit outfalls they observe during the performance of their duties, and when noted, efforts are made to eliminate them. Jay noted that recently, an outfall into Silver Beach lagoon had been noted and that it will be removed and a storm drain will be installed to infiltrate the water into the soil rather than directly into the surface waters.

There was a comment noting that construction site runoff controls require education of site operators, design engineers and municipal staff. All building inspectors and certain members of the highway department have received this training. Due to the small size of Shelter Island it seems impractical to bring trainers to the island for the few interested parties when it is widely available in nearby towns.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.  
The next meeting is September 14, 2015.

The 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