

Town of Canandaigua

5440 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, New York 14424

DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Established October 16, 2017

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019, 11:00 A.M.

MINUTES—APPROVED

Meeting Called by: Charles Oyler, *Chairperson*

Committee Member Present: Richard Krebs

Committee Member Excused: Kathy Page

Town Representatives:

Terry Fennelly, Canandaigua Town Board Member

Jim Fletcher, Canandaigua Highway Superintendent

Greg Hotaling, MRB Group, D.P.C.

Kaitlynn McCumiskey, Canandaigua Highway Department

Kevin Olvany, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council

Kevin Reynolds, Canandaigua Town Board Member

Thomas Schwartz, Chairperson, Canandaigua Planning Board

Guest:

Donna Torrens, 3535 and 3537 County Road 16, Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424

1. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Oyler called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2019

The minutes of the April 23, 2019, meeting were approved. The minutes will be posted upon the Drainage Advisory Committee web page and will be distributed to the Town Board members and Town staff via e-mail.

3. LAURA LANE: DEC WETLANDS DETERMINATION AND MAPPING

Mr. Hotaling: Said that the application for drainage mitigation in the area of the Town behind the homes on the north side of Laura Lane has been submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

4. DRAINAGE ISSUES TRACKING SPREADSHEET

Mr. Oyler: Said that the Drainage Issues Tracking Spreadsheet is ready for submission to the Town Board. It is a listing of, and the tracking mechanism for, all the documented drainage issues brought to the Committee's attention from various sources over the last year and a half. It was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Oyler will submit the spreadsheet with a cover letter to the Town Manager to forward on to the Town Board. The cover letter will summarize the Committee's discussions of drainage issues on Town property, County property and private property. The cover letter also will also mention the need to next prioritize any remediation work to be done and seek out funding options for consideration by the Town Board which have been discussed by the Committee at this and at previous meetings.

Mr. Olvany: Discussed the concept of the completion of water quality and flood resiliency/drainage projects on both public and private land by Town employees using Town-owned and/or rented equipment. He said that any projects on private land should include a determination whether the public benefits of the project outweigh the private benefit. He said that the benefit to the public of the use of Town employees and equipment on private land must be very identifiable.

Mr. Olvany: Said that drainage projects which will benefit private property owners should include some buy-in from the property owners in return for the benefits they will derive. Steuben County uses a 25 percent buy-in. He said, for example, that projects to mitigate flooding or to improve water quality may provide benefits to both the public and to property owners, and that these mutual benefits should be identified.

Mr. Olvany: Discussed several funding options for drainage projects, as follows:

- Creation of a town-wide drainage district which has been discussed previously and for which MRB Group has presented various options.
- Use of existing drainage-district funds to complete projects in those specific districts.
- Creation of a funding mechanism within the Town's General Fund to fund projects.
- Application for grants.

- Some combination of the above.

Mr. Olvany: Discussed having Town employees work on drainage projects instead of hiring outside contractors, for which based on collective experiences will increase the cost three-fold at least. He described several projects in which he has been involved across the watershed and has seen presentations involving projects in Steuben County in which grants have been received and for which employees and equipment were provided by the local municipalities.

Mr. Fletcher: Said that he is discussing with the Town Manager the possibility of having a couple of Town Highway Department retirees come back on a seasonal basis to work on drainage and other projects. He said that they would be able to focus on specific projects while the current Highway Department staff continues their regular work assignments.

Mr. Fennelly: Asked if bringing back retirees would affect the union staff at the Highway Department. Mr. Fletcher said that he did not think so but would work with the Town Manager to discuss this option with the union.

Ms. McCumiskey: Asked about the logistics of tracking purchases if drainage projects in one town are completed by employees from another Town. Mr. Olvany said that typically the town in which the drainage project is located would enter into a contract with the town for which the employees work.

Mr. Fennelly: Expressed concern that decisions for intermunicipal work could become delayed by the various meeting schedules of the town boards. Mr. Olvany said that he hoped that this type of work could be arranged through existing intermunicipal cooperative arrangements. Mr. Olvany said that work outside the Town of Canandaigua should require that the entity requesting the assistance be able to up-front the personnel cost so that the Town is not required to find money in its budget prior to receiving the reimbursement.

Mr. Oyler: Said that knowledge of the locations and types of drainage issues in the Town will benefit the Planning Board as new applications are received. He said that the Planning Board could be in a position of working with a developer or an applicant to address the drainage issues through a public/property owner arrangement.

Mr. Oyler: Said that the Committee has defined and will continue to consider the drainage issues and locations by the reporting of these issues by residents. He said that moving forward the Committee must prioritize the projects, design mitigation plans, and work with the Town Board on funding mechanisms (i.e., town-wide drainage district, drainage district assessment, general fund, grants, etc.) and determine whether the projects could be completed by Town employees and equipment or by external contractors.

Mr. Schwartz: Asked if the Committee is prepared to recommend the creation of a town-wide drainage district to the Town Board. Mr. Oyler said that the Committee is not ready to make a recommendation on this option at this time.

Mr. Fennelly: Expressed interest in the concept of having buy-in by property owners for drainage projects on their properties. He said that in some cases the benefit for drainage projects may be much greater for an individual property than for the entire Town.

Mr. Oyler: Said that the greater public benefit of drainage improvements is the protection of Canandaigua Lake.

Mr. Reynolds: Asked about projects in Steuben County. Mr. Olvany said that several of these projects involved a partnership between the Steuben County Highway Department, the individual municipality and the Soil and Water Conservation District. Steuben County is dominated by streams and is a large county, whereas Ontario County is dominated by the lake. A good portion of the projects would occur in the Town with other projects happening around the watershed. Mr. Olvany said that the Town Highway Department is the best equipped and has a long and successful track record of being involved in these types of projects with the watershed program.

Mr. Oyler: Suggested that the Town Board may wish to consider a Town Storm Water Management Master Plan analogous to the Water and Sewer Master Plans.

Mr. Fennelly: Asked about funding sources for several of the projects which Mr. Olvany discussed. Mr. Olvany said that funding has been provided through a variety of sources from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, from the Nature Conservancy, from a Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Grant, and from other grants. He said that the grant for the current project at Finger Lakes Community College is \$350,000 with \$250,000 provided by the State and \$100,000 in-kind assistance from multiple entities. The project in Gorham is to build a 2+-acre water quality basin to solve flooding and water quality issues. There are enough grant funds to pay for labor and equipment usage on the project. The goal is to build the project this summer.

5. DISCUSSION TOPICS

Mr. Krebs: Asked about silt flowing through a stream near the Canandaigua Country Club. Mr. Olvany said that about 20 percent of the silt will be treated when the drainage mitigation project at Finger Lakes Community College is completed. He said that the silt and sediment is caused by a combination of factors including agricultural-based aspects and stream-based erosion.

Ms. Torrens: Discussed a drainage problem which recently occurred on County Road 16 when a fire hydrant at the Canandaigua Yacht Club was tested. She said that water and sediment flowed over the road and onto her property because a swale along the road was

clogged with leaves, sticks and other debris. She said that this occurred simply because the fire hydrant was tested. It did not occur from a storm. Mr. Olvany said that this situation involves a swale in the Ontario County right of way on County Road 16. Mr. Fletcher said that this issue also involves the education of residents to avoid raking leaves and other debris into the roadside drainage structures. Mr. Oyler suggested that perhaps an article on this topic could be included in a future issue of the Town newsletter.

76 NEXT MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Committee will be:

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 11:00 a.m. Highway Dept. Conference Room

Subsequent meetings will be:

Tuesday, June 25, 2019	11:00 a.m.	Highway Dept. Conference Room
Tuesday, July 9, 2019	11:00 a.m.	Highway Dept. Conference Room
Tuesday, July 23, 2019	11:00 a.m.	Highway Dept. Conference Room

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Robortella

E-mail distribution:

Krebs, Richard
Oyler, Charles
Page, Kathy

cc. to:

Bloom, Tina
Brabant, Lance
Chrisman, Jean
Cooper, Eric
Davis, Gary
Dworaczyk, Linda
Fennelly, Terry
Finch, Doug
Fletcher, Jim
Hotaling, Greg
Jensen, Chris
Marthaller, Joyce
McCumiskey, Kaitlynn
Menikotz, Cathy
Nadler, Christian
Olvany, Kevin
Reynolds, Kevin
Reynolds, Sarah
Rowlinson, Michelle
Schwartz, Tom
Webster, Megan