



MINUTES
STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016
3:30PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

Committee Members Present:

Ed Whiting (SWAC Chair), Ken Hawkins, Debbie Frazer, Joe Wolfe, Violet Freudenberg, Marie Meszaros, Valerie McFall

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Lori Saal (Stormwater Coordinator), Darryl Smith (Town of Farragut Engineer), Gary Palmer (Assistant Town Administrator)

Other:

Melissa Martin

Call to Order

Meeting started at 3:30 pm

Approval of the Minutes

Ed Whiting made a motion to approve the April minutes, Valerie McFall seconded and all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion on request from Mr. & Mrs. Martin requesting assistance with stormwater adjacent to Herron Road.

April 14, 2016 Stormwater Committee Meeting Minutes summary:

The Farragut Board of Mayor and Alderman referred the complaints of the Martins concerning recent events of stormwater accumulation on their property to the committee to offer any guidance it may have for the Board concerning those complaints. It should be noted that the primary work and expertise of the committee has to do with water quality-related stormwater issues and not with stormwater drainage management issues. The Martin's anecdotally challenge the conclusion by the TOF Engineer that the repair/replacement of pipe under the Martin's driveway is the landowner's responsibility if the pipe cannot sufficiently handle the volume of run-off water. The Martin's residence is at 631 Herron Road, and the pipe beneath the driveway is sized properly. They also own the residential properties at 609 and 611 Herron Road. Although other pipes/drains in the area appear to have been upgraded to 24" pipe by the residents, the pipe at 609 Herron appears to be 18" pipe and was installed before the Town came

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into existence. The pooling of water occurs on the property on which 609 and 611 Herron is situated. It has been observed by several to have even less capacity because it is significantly obstructed with sediment, etc. The Martins maintain that the additional water is as a result of improper drainage from Turkey Creek development.

Today's meeting:

Ed Whiting started out the meeting by mentioning that there was old business for the Herring Road property. Melissa Martin (the property owner) was at the meeting and started out explaining that she has been a resident of this area her whole life and the history of her property. She also went on to explain that there is a holding pond in the Turkey Creek area that is draining onto her property downstream. Darryl Smith pointed out on the map to show the area to everyone there.

Several items that Melissa Martin mentioned include the following. She explained that in 1988 there was a holding pond placed in, although back then the holding pond would flood. She also explained that her driveway has a small incline. She describes how water travels down Herron Road. She also said that someone built a rain sidewalk so rainwater can travel down Herron Road, it then goes down a concrete part. A couple of years ago her neighbor across the street would have a very wet backyard. She mentioned that her driveway has now dropped down 5". The storm on Christmas Day was discussed about and how much of the water from the storm that day was going down the road.

Melissa Martin spoke about the different holding ponds and the configuration changes from Turkey Creek over the years. She also showed a video to everyone at the table of water releasing from the holding pond. She has looked back at this holding pond area and now the tree that was blocking is gone and the area has been cleaned up. Darryl Smith mentioned that he requested that the tree be removed. A picture of the tree blocking the pipe is shown to the table.

When she had her meeting in February, Darryl Smith was worried about setting a precedent if the Town fixed her property and it had done nothing to be legally responsible for the condition. Afterwards she got a letter, via email, saying that the Town would fix it. The letter mentioned was passed around the table. She is asking that since the Town of Farragut approved the plans for the Turkey Creek development and related holding pond, she wants the Town to put in a larger pipe under her property (replacing her existing metal pipe) at 609 Herron Road. She wants it to be fixed. She was sent a second letter by Mr. Smith saying that on further reflection he could not recommend that the Town replace the pipe on private property because the Town had no legal liability for the condition. The law is that public dollars can't be spent to improve private property absent an overriding risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the public generally.

Darryl Smith explained that the rate of runoff from pre and post development is the same and that the engineering calculations supporting the design of the holding pond (collecting stormwater from a portion of the drainage basin in the Turkey Creek area) were accurate and demonstrate that the holding pond was properly sized. Inspections reveal that it is working as it was intended. He pointed out that because the pipe in question was on private property, public funds should not be used to fix it. Mr. Smith also pointed out that the natural instinct and response of Town staff to citizens in situations like this is to want to help solve their problem. Indeed, in the past the Town had a policy and a fund to fix stormwater problems, but that policy had been changed as the demand for scarce resources increased over the years. He did mention that if she feels as if the Turkey Creek development is the issue, then she could take it up with the owners.

Ken Hawkins mentioned that Melissa Martin's pipe had not been maintained. He also felt that visually it is flowing properly. He stated that the pipe had not been cleaned out. Melissa Martin said that it was cleaned out in March and that she has maintained it. Darryl Smith points out that there was sewerline that was installed on her property. Melissa Martin has not involved her neighbors, but knows that they would sign a letter and they would help her. Mr. Smith said that it could be a liability for her if she doesn't keep the pipe cleaned out, properly sized and working properly.

Marie Meszaros asked if there was a spring or anything that could be adding to the water to the area in question. She also asked if the water on the road was coming from the entrance or from her pipe. Marie Meszaro also wanted to know when Turkey Creek was put in, was there any consideration taken into account to inform the downstream people and if it is being maintained (the holding pond).

The holding pond is on the Panda's Express's property, but stormwater from a group of property owners within the natural drainage area contributes stormwater to the pond. Marie Meszaros asked if there is a problem in that area overall. The longevity of piping material was discussed. Ed Whiting said that the flow is not being diverted and it is following the topography. He also said that we are doing as much as we can do.

Ed Whiting referred to the decision in the memorandum that he wrote dated March 23, 2016 with the subject of Herron Road Flooding Issue. This copy of this memorandum is attached and includes the following: "On March 15th Ron Williams and I performed a complete walk through inspection of the tributary from the detention basin all the way down Herron Road to where it goes under Campbell Station Road into Turkey Creek."

The conclusion of this same memorandum states: The detention ponds that have outlets are properly designed to ensure that the natural rate of runoff has been maintained and the ponds have been properly maintained.

The Committee agrees with the Town Engineer's findings that this situation does not present a public safety hazard. No motion was made and no formal action was taken. Consistent with the request of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, it was noted that a copy of these minutes would be provided to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation of service awards. Lori Saal presented awards to members that have served on the board for a length of time.
- b. Lori wanted to let us know that Joseph collected 180 lbs. of trash along the Wentworth greenway. It was very successful both in weight and number of volunteers. He had four people help out, that is in addition to himself and another AmeriCorps member. They will be doing another cleanup at Founders Park. Earthfest was very successful and they gave trees away. Joseph removed a lot of invasive from the Grisby Chapel area and he planted some trees with the Girl Scouts.
- c. The rain barrel shop is being held through the water quality forum. People come in to learn about water quality.
- d. June 17th is Joseph's last day as an AmeriCorps member. He is planning to stay in the area.
- e. Ken Hawkins said that his Stormwater Committee term is up and hasn't heard anything as to his renewal. He said that he would like to continue.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Ed adjourned the meeting at 5:08pm. The next meeting is Thursday, June 9th at 3:30pm in the Town Hall Board Room.

Memorandum

To: Board of Mayor and Aldermen
CC: David Smoak Town Administrator
From: Edwin Whiting, SWAC Chair *EKW*
Date: 3/23/2016
Re: Herron Road Flooding Issue

At the March 10th meeting of the BOMA I was asked to evaluate the request made by Melissa Martin concerning flooding of a driveway on her property at 609 Herron Road. She claimed this was caused by excessive flow in the tributary running from the detention pond located behind the Panda Express and next to the JC Penny store. By letter dated March 1, 2016 the town engineer (Daryl Smith) informed Ms. Martin that the cause of flooding was most likely an undersized 18" corrugated metal pipe installed in 1972, and since the drainage way (a tributary to Turkey creek) is on private property, the property owners are responsible for proper maintenance of the tributary.

On March 15th Ron Williams and I performed a complete walk through inspection of the tributary from the detention basin all the way down Herron Road to where it goes under Campbell Station Road into Turkey Creek.

We agree with the Town Engineer's findings that this situation does not present a public safety hazard. We walked the complete drainage stream channel from the detention pond on the east side of JC Penny. We stopped to inspect each drainage culvert at every driveway and crossover along the way. All the property owners except for the Martin double driveway have a 24" or larger culvert. It appears that all except for the 18" Martin culvert have been repaired or replaced in the past. This particular metal pipe has erosion damage above the pipe possibly caused by being partially full of silt and debris in the past. The 1960's era pipe could possibly have internal issues due to its age and past natural erosion damage. Each property owner has the responsibility to maintain their driveway culverts and ditch lines. This includes bank stabilization along with keeping the pipe clean of sedimentation and replacement when they are beyond repair. The attached photos highlight the need for maintenance along this tributary.

CONCLUSIONS

The detention ponds that have outlets are properly designed to ensure that the natural rate of runoff has been maintained and properly maintained.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A letter should be sent to each owner of property along this tributary, reminding them of their responsibility for maintenance of the tributary.
2. An article should be submitted to the Farragut Press and Shopper News, discussing property owners' responsibility concerning maintenance of drainage ways located on their property.















