

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Town Hall Council Chambers

October 16, 2006

Present: Arthur E. Mathews, Chairperson
Greg Shanahan
Sue Kay
Thomas J. Lacey
Michael Smart

Also Present: Jack Carey
Kenneth J. DiFazio
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff
Robert O'Connor, Director of DPW

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairman Mathews called the Public Works Committee Meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Flooding Issues on Lee Street

Chairman Mathews requested Robert O'Connor, Director of DPW to speak to the Committee. Mr. O'Connor stated that there is still a significant amount of work needed to determine the issues on Lee Street . He noted that any storm water management needs to meet state and federal standards must be determinedl

Mr. O'Connor stated that Lee Street is a dead-end street at the Wharf Street end of East Street. He stated that the street is approximately 400 feet long and is bowl shaped. He also noted that the street was cleaned by the street sweeper in recent weeks.

Councilor Shanahan noted that there were Dig Safe markings on the road. Mr. O'Connor stated that the Dig Safe markings are for the work that may be done by the town. They are scheduled to come out this Thursday.

Councilor Kay asked for clarification on how the water drains. The elevation of the road does not allow for the drainage of the water through the storm drains; the water flows into drywells. Mr. O'Connor stated that the tentative plan is to provide for new storm water management in that area to discharge the water more efficiently.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the Mayor has asked the Engineering Department to come up with a list of areas in town that have drainage problems.

Councilor Smart asked about a holding area for the water such as a retention basin. Mr. O'Connor stated that this is an option.

Councilor DiFazio requested that the neighbors be kept apprised of the situation. Mr. O'Connor agreed.

Councilor Mathews asked if the town is in compliance with the storm water management plan. Mr. O'Connor stated that the town is currently in compliance. He commented that this is a 5

year plan and the town is in year 3 of this plan. There is still some construction and mapping to be done.

Councilor Carey asked if this is the same issue as on Dana Road. Mr. O'Connor stated that Lee Street is a similar situation. Engineering is trying to develop a standard and has several prototypes to be reviewed.

Councilor Smart asked if this would be done this year. Mr. O'Connor stated the work would be done once the plans are completed and a funding source is located. Councilor Smart asked that DPW be aware of this specific area as the winter approaches. Mr. O'Connor agreed.

Ms. Hackett stated that there is no budget for this project. She stated that there are problems such as this in many other areas of town. She also stated that priorities must be set.

Councilor Kay asked if there is a plan to look for federal money to deal with the overall problem. Ms. Hackett stated that Administration is working on this. Wittawaumet Street was done with federal funding. Ms. Hackett stated that a reasonable standard needs to be set in order to know where there is a chronic problem, not just from "100 year" storms.

Councilor Lacey asked if it would benefit Administration to get feedback from Councilors regarding areas in their parts of town that have problems and also to give the Council a copy of the list once it is completed. Ms. Hackett stated that many of the areas identified have come from Councilors.

Councilor DiFazio pointed out that Lee Street has a frequent problem with flooding. Ms. Hackett stated there are approximately 20 sites in town that flood chronically.

Councilor Mathews stated that soil testing will be done and until this is completed, it is not possible to determine the cost of any repairs.

Councilor Mathews noted that landscapers tend to blow leaves and sand out into the street; this does not help the problem, and is an issue for another day.

Ms. Hackett pointed out that the Mayor is looking to residents to help with keeping catch basins cleared. She stated that obviously there are basins that are clogged internally, but any assistance from residents would be greatly appreciated.

Councilor Mathews asked for an update from Mr. O'Connor in the near future to keep the Council aware of the situation.

At 7pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Shanahan to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Arthur E. Mathews, Chairperson