

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
December 17, 2007**

Present: Arthur Mathews, Chairperson
Sue Kay
Michael Smart

Not Present: Thomas J. Lacey
Greg Shanahan

Also Present: Ed Harrington, Councilor
Robert O'Connor, Director of Department of Public Works

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairperson Mathews called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Signature Drive Regarding Review of Water and Drainage Report for Legion Field

Councilor Mathews stated that he and Diane Hachey have been attempting to schedule this meeting for some time, but there were communication issues with the Mayor's Office. He noted that he realizes that it is seven (7) days before Christmas. He noted that there will be further meetings after the holidays.

Mr. Gabriel and Kevin McCue from Environmental Partners Group appeared before the Public Works Committee. Mr. Gabriel stated that there are issues with the drainage basin but he noted that it is not directly related to Legion Field and the work being done there. He gave a brief overview of the history of this issue.

Mr. Gabriel noted that Legion field habitually floods. He noted that it is essentially a bowl. The ground water level is at 1 foot below the ground and after much rain, the ground level is above the ground. Mr. McCue noted that this is isolated land which is subject to flooding.

The municipal drainage system covers the 110 acres which discharges into the drainage area around the cul de sac at Endicott Street. There is 8500 feet of pipes that eventually drains into the Back River basin.

There was a drainage system within Legion, but it appears that the pipes have become clogged over the years so that there was not flooding in the water basin area. Now that the pipe is no longer clogged, the flooding has increased.

Councilor Kay asked for an explanation of the difference between surface water and ground water. Mr. McCue stated that surface water is the water that runs off the street and ground water (water table) is below the soil/surface. Mr. McCue stated that because of the contours, he is confident that the work at Legion Field is not impacting the local flooding. He noted that Legion Field is at a lower elevation than the affected properties. He stated that precipitation levels have

been much higher in recent years. He noted that during 2005/2006 there were record levels of precipitation.

Councilor Smart asked for clarification on a 100 year storm.

Mr. Gabriel stated that a 100 year storm is defined as a storm occurring once in a hundred years, with a 24 hour duration. A storm of 7" in 24 hours is considered a 100 year storm. He noted that there have been a number of these events in the past few years.

Councilor Mathews noted that there should be a redefining of the 100 year storm criteria as there have been these types of storms in several consecutive years. A 100 year storm produces 7" of rain in a 24 hour period.

Mr. Gabriel stated that there is a pipe which is improperly sloped and has a much lower capacity. There is an open channel which runs under the tracks and flows into the channel perpendicularly. There is a grated area which needs to be repaired. He suggested that the open swale be enclosed. Mr. Gabriel stated that the work at Legion Field is not causing the problems, but instead it is being caused by the previously mentioned issues within the municipal drainage system. Also, the fact that the Endicott Street neighborhood is bowl shaped is also a contributing factor.

Councilor Mathews asked if it were possible to put a camera down the enclosed portions of the pipes to determine if there are other clogged areas. Mr. Gabriel stated that this has been done. He noted that there are joints. He noted that there are no collapsed points or other obvious points of inflow.

Councilor Mathews asked if there is any documentation as to who installed the pipe improperly as previously mentioned. He questioned if the MBTA installed the pipe. Mr. Gabriel stated that the MBTA installed the pipe but no as-built plans were available-all he could access was the design plans.

Councilor Mathews stated that Ms. Hachey had submitted a memo with a list of questions to the Mayor's Office on December 5th and a follow-up letter on December 14th regarding the Legion Field issue. Mr. Gabriel stated that he had not received a copy of the memo from administration.

Councilor Mathews apologized to the Petersen's and the residents who were present this evening, with the expectation of having the questions answered.

Councilor Kay asked Mr. O'Connor to find out what departments looked at the culvert and the process in which this work was completed. She also asked that Mr. Clarke contact a representative of the MBTA to further follow up on this issue.

Councilor Harrington stated that the peat is highly absorbent and questioned if the less absorbent material is loaded on top of the peat, then the ground water level would be raised. Mr. Gabriel stated that the surface material is transmissive. He stated that the water table is the same now as it was pre-construction, to within an inch or two. He noted that none of the outlet pipes have been changed. Mr. Gabriel stated that the objective of the placement of the dirt was to stabilize

the field. Once the field was stabilized, some of the dirt was off-loaded to avoid over compacting the peat.

Councilor Mathews stated that there will more meetings in January regarding this issue.

Curbside Residential Trash Removal at 800 Broad Street

Councilor Mathews stated that Mr. O'Connor did not receive the packet of information that had been sent to the Mayor's Office by Ms. Hachey. He was unaware that this item was on the agenda for this evening. Councilor Mathews asked Mr. O'Connor if he had an update.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the problem is that rather than looking at this as an individual concern, a comprehensive review is underway townwide regarding commercial and mixed use trash removal. He stated that two data bases are being merged and also that this is a work in progress.

Councilor Mathews asked Mr. O'Connor to look at the particulars of this specific situation. Mr. O'Connor stated that he had spoken with Mr. Champagne at length at the prior meeting when this was discussed. He stated that he will address this situation specifically with Mr. Champagne.

Councilor Smart stated that a number of residents/commercial properties exist where this is a concern.

At 7:01 pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Smart to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Arthur Mathews, Chairperson