

POA-AOTB
Drainage Meeting Notes
9:00 am, January 29, 2019
1375 Walnut Avenue

County Attendance:

Kevin Brown, Urban Roads Superintendent, Southern District Roads
Joe Shenton, Supervisor, Southern Roads
Lee Greenwald, P.E., Project Manager, Sewage Pump Station (SPS) recapitalization
Janice Hayes-Williams, County Executive's Office

Community Attendance:

David Delia, Walnut Avenue, Board Member, POA-AOTB, Drainage Committee
Ed Conaway, Linden Avenue, Drainage Committee
Donna Watts-Lamont, Cohasset Avenue, Vice President, POA-AOTB
Mike Adams, Magnolia Avenue, Board Member, POA-AOTB
Richard Peyton, Newport Avenue, Board Member, POA-AOTB
Steve Sapirie, Cohasset Avenue
David Osias, Saratoga Avenue
Chris Wien, Myrtle Avenue

The following issues were discussed:

- The County is responsible for major portions of North/South roads in the Community (**Green** signs)
- The Community is responsible for most of the East/West roads with some exceptions (**Blue** signs).
- We are a POA, **not** an HOA, so that limits the control we have over what owners do on and to their property.
- Some of the actions taken by property owners over the years (filling in swales, removing pipes, building structures) have added to individual and collective drainage problems.
- 65.5 inches of rain in our community in 2018; the "hundred-year storm" happens almost every year now.
- Our community has been working on drainage problems for several years; eight years ago we paid 33K for a Coastal Erosion study that Julie Winters later used to leverage an almost half-million dollar grant for the Newport/Chestnut Avenue project. A similar Drainage study will cost about 35K.
- Reviewed Newport/Chestnut Project completed in 2014.
- Through the years we have worked well with Jim Small (DPW/Roads) and Andy Watcher (DPW/Infrastructure).
- The County is very responsive to ours needs and requests. They have always gone the extra mile for us; however, they are working with limited manpower.

- There is only an eight-person crew assigned to the communities from South Haven—Truman Parks down Forest Drive. There are only 22 or 23 persons assigned for the communities from Route 50 to Calvert County.
- After years of trying to address our overall drainage problem piecemeal, last spring DPW Southern District Roads supervisor Jim Small said “enough” and put together a plan to address many of our biggest problems. That plan is what the County is working on now under Jim’s successors Kevin Brown and Joe Shenton; however, it will take time due to limited manpower and other work that must be done in other the communities. The County has begun working this plan from North to South. The objective is to have as much water go to ground and not into the Bay as possible, with excess downpour runoff more effectively directed bayward.
- The community needs to understand that the County’s work will improve the stormwater flow in the community, but we will never be water free.
- Also, the County will not be addressing any drainage problems on private property. Any grading that needs to be done on private property is the responsibility of the individual homeowners, with county permitting processes adhered to, of course.
- The County will be addressing the swales that are along the County right of ways.
- The silted-over and sun-hardened outflow pipe “boots” at the Magnolia shoreline between Newport and Cohasset will be replaced with flapper valves closer in that will open to let stormwater runoff out but not let tidal sea/bay water flow back in. Phragmites have already been removed along Magnolia at the under-road outflow points.
- After DPW work is completed, POA-AOTB will fund a professional contractor drainage study costing approximately \$35,000 to better understand what remaining issues (roadside swales/pipes) can be addressed by POA and what must remain the responsibility of individual homeowners.

Also present was Lee Greenwald, a DPW contractor who briefed us on the County’s **Sewer Pump Station (SPS) Recapitalization/Generator installation project:**

As part of a county-wide improvement plan for the over 50 emergency SPS facilities (for use during sustained power outages), a generator and fuel supply will be installed at the end of Cohasset (oriented North/South) and a generator connector is being installed at the SPS at the west end of Chestnut. The SPS facilities in the Oyster Harbor Community, including the one at Cedar near Niagara, are also being refurbished. All these SPS are backed up by the major SPS at the intersection of Thomas Point and Arundel On the Bay Roads (station 6), which pumps all the way to the Annapolis Treatment Plant off Edgewood Road. (Note: DPW was reminded that this vital SPS 6 and its generator are sometimes sitting in 2 to 4 inches of water.)

Homeowners are cautioned that they must get a Right of Way Permit for any work done on a County Right of Way, which includes *all* AOTB streets. To do so without a permit is illegal. For example, the stone wall down at the south west end of Newport will probably need to be removed when that swale is improved.

A list of the work DPW has accomplished thus far is attached and includes:

- Rockaway, 205-man hours, regrading and pipe replacement
- Narragansett and Myrtle, 32-man hours, opening damaged pipes and blowing out clogged pipes
- Rockaway and Linden, 144-man hours, swale and pipe work. This is one of the East/West streets that is the County's responsibility.

Upcoming county plans

This Spring the County will restart the project of clearing the swales and opening or replacing pipes. They will pick back up on Cohasset and work south toward the water. They will not be able to devote the entire spring season to us as they must serve other communities having the same if not worse problems with water drainage.

Community Priority List presented to DPW

- Cohasset at Oak, south to Magnolia
- Magnolia between Newport and Cohasset
- Linden between Narragansett and at least Newport
- Newport between Oak and Myrtle

Janice Hayes-Williams, executive assistant to our new County Executive Steuart Pittman, was anxious to help us as always and also suggested that we contact Watershed Stewards Academy for possible help in our community.

After the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am, Kevin, Joe, Lee and David visited the above sites.

—Donna Watts-Lamont
and David Delia