

STORM WATER COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2024

The Storm Water Committee meeting was held on June 4, 2024 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Linda Barath, Vice Chair John Nickell; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Joanne Krejci, Mary Gorjanc, Heidi Webber; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Tom Kelly, City Engineer Matthew Glass, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, Wastewater Superintendent Ed Haller, Clerk of Council Helen Dunlap; **Other:** Karen Fiegelist, Christopher Koszewski, Vedrana Bozic.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of May 7, 2024 Storm Water Committee minutes. Moved by Ms. Barath, seconded by Mr. Nickell. Vote: Yeas: 2 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Storm Water/Infrastructure Maintenance Monthly Report

See report.

Mr. Nickell inquired about the tree root ball taken out from behind 9961 Beechwood Drive. Mr. Haller indicated he was uncertain about that and he had not heard about it. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted the Sewer District had been there. Mr. Nickell noted there was probably loose soil. Mr. Haller commented that it is not uncommon to happen.

2. Maintenance Projects

No update.

Ms. Barath asked about Chippewa Creek, in which it appears that they are close to being finished. Mr. Glass stated that he would check into it and let her know. Ms. Barath indicated there are small sections of that in her ward.

3. Turnpike Mitigation

Mr. Glass reported that project is finished with design and scheduled for construction in 2025. The next step will be to go out to bid.

4. Cleaning the Mains

Mr. Haller indicated that the men are continuing this on a regular basis. Ms. Barath gave a positive comment that she can see a difference and has not been receiving calls, as she has in the past. She expressed her gratitude.

5. NEORSO projects update

No updates.

6. 14523 Cross Creek Lane Retention Basin

Mr. Glass advised that we are still waiting to hear back from FEMA about the BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant application that was submitted. Ms. Barath inquired about the time frame of hearing something. Mr. Glass indicated that it could be up to several months.

Resident

Chris Koszewski, 8659 North Akins Road, President of the HOA for Royal Park Condominiums. In our backyard is the Turnpike. Every time we get a very heavy rain, we get flooded terribly, to the point where we cannot get insurance. We live at the bottom of a big hill. I came up for a meeting here in September to address it, however there was quite a contentious other meeting going on and I was unable to speak. I do remember Mr. Nickell and I did speak with a person who was in charge of maintenance. He said he would send someone down there to look at it. I never saw anyone. However, in November on a cold day, I walked out and there was a surveying crew and I asked what they were doing. They said they were here to survey the creek that runs through our property to mitigate the flooding, and they were sent by the City of North Royalton. I said, "good". Well, it's June; haven't seen anything done. My question is, is there anything being done with that survey and if not, could we get the City to come in. We could walk across that drain when I moved there in 1998, it is high above me now.

Mayor Antoskiewicz asked if he was referring to the creek that runs along the backside. Mr. Koszewski agreed, of North Akins, yes. The Mayor indicated if it is the Turnpike's creek, then we need to discuss it with the Turnpike. It is their responsibility to clean that. He was unaware of the survey situation; he cannot imagine that the City has ever done a survey there. Mr. Koszewski commented that they pounded stakes all along the creek. The Mayor stated that the survey may have been done, however, he highly doubted that it was the City's doing.

Ms. Barath inquired if they perhaps could have done it for the application. The Mayor explained they may have done it for the Turnpike mitigate; he was uncertain. If it needs cleaning, that is the Turnpike's responsibility. We can make that call to the Turnpike and get them out there to clean.

Mr. Koszewski stated that it does run between North Akins and the Turnpike. There was a catch basin put in on the other side of our driveway. The Mayor agreed. Mr. Koszewski stated and we paid to have one put on our side. They did a good job of catching the tree root balls and the bigger boulders, foam poles, animals, etc. However, it just sifted it out to a smaller size of rock and it laid them nice and neatly all through that creek. Now, the creek does not go through anymore; it goes around itself.

The Mayor clarified that the one on his property that goes into the Turnpike would be his responsibility. Mr. Koszewski mentioned the rocks that came from public property. The Mayor advised that does not matter. It is all water flow and everyone gets things depending upon the way it flows. If it is the one that he is thinking of, that is alongside of Mr. Koszewski's driveway; to the back of the Turnpike; that one is the Royal Parks responsibility. The other one would be the Turnpike's. We maintain that one across the street. That is why we have done the work that we have there and keep that clean.

Mr. Koszewski asked if it were possible to get any assistance from the City to get any money from the EPA to assist them with this. The Mayor indicated that the EPA would not. However, we do have a program in place if you are doing work with a retention basin or a creek. He stated that the resident should call the Engineering Department. This depends on the cost of the project. You would apply for it with the Engineering Department and the Engineer would look at it, and he would have to approve it. You would pay for it, show the receipts, and then we would reimburse per the ordinance; 5 % of \$7,000. Mr. Glass agreed that the resident could call Teresa in the Engineering Department.

Mr. Koszewski expressed his appreciation. He commented that we cannot afford another flood. The water is getting trapped and not going down there. The Mayor asked how long the resident has lived there. Mr. Koszewski indicated since 1998. The Mayor recalled that the residents always did get flooded coming right across North Akins, until our Service Department went out there and built the contraption on the other side of the street; which has really helped. Mr. Koszewski noted that it has kept everything out. The Mayor brought up that unfortunately, it used to be called the money pit. Our Service crew knew as soon as there was heavy rain, they were going to get called in. Mr. Koszewski indicated that we lost eight condominiums once, in a

storm; the kids were tubing down the driveway. He went on to say we that at the end of last July, we lost four more condominiums and now we cannot get insured as an HOA or individually; that is a nationwide thing. There are some states that you cannot get homeowners insurance at all.

Ms. Barath asked if that was for the water or the condo. The Mayor indicated for the people that are insured. Mr. Koszewski stated that FEMA conveyed that we do not live in a flood zone. Ms. Barath felt that every year it seems they are adding more flood zones. She advised that we will leave this on the agenda since we are working through the application process; until we find some type of resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Barath, seconded by Mr. Nickell to adjourn the June 4, 2024 meeting. Yeas: 2; Nays: 0. **Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.**