

**STORMWATER TASK FORCE
MINUTES
February 10, 2016**

The Stormwater Task Force met in the Ritter Building, first floor conference room, as scheduled, with Matt Allison, Jim Auge, Phyllis Luck, and Dave MacDonald present. The meeting opened at 4:20 pm. Phyllis Luck announced that Sarah Cammer has been appointed to the Stormwater Task Force by the Board of Selectmen. Sarah is very well qualified will be able to attend the meetings when they are on Thursday.

As assigned at the January 13 meeting, members discussed their board's stormwater regulations. Jim Auge reported that "Stormwater" is not mentioned in the Board of Health regulations directly. One way that the Board of Health may become involved directly is where a land owner wants to site a septic system in an area susceptible to stormwater issues, which is something the Board already worries about. The other situation is when stormwater runoff from a failed septic system carries E.coli into a body of water and is detected; the Board of Health routinely gets involved in that. Through his complete reading of the Title V regulations, Jim could find no other direct reference linking that board to stormwater issues. The regulations imply rather than direct, the involvement of the Board of Health in stormwater issues. When the new permit comes out, the Board of Health may have more direct involvement.

Dave MacDonald discussed the Department of Public Works involvement. Jack Rodiquenz, DPW Director, had informed Dave that they follow Planning Board regulations regarding stormwater. Dave suggested that the Task Force should look at the regulations in place and determine one set of regulations that should apply across the board. These may very well initiate in the Planning Office. A goal will be to get all involved boards and department heads together to discuss the stormwater issue.

Matt Allison looked through the Planning Board Regulations, as well as the Town's bylaws, and identified 10 or 12 instances in each where stormwater was referenced. The Planning Board has Subdivision Rules and Regulations; in the General Bylaws, there is Section 6, which includes provisions affecting all districts. Therein are 6.7 Stormwater Management (NPDES Permits), and 6.8 Discharges to the Municipal Storm/sewer system and waters of the Commonwealth. These are the regulations we may want to focus on. The General Bylaws and Subdivision Rules and Regulations are available through the Planning Board website. He also checked with Adam Burney, Land Use Director, to determine if there were others that he'd missed. Adam saw several regulations in the general bylaws that the Task Force could work to strengthen. In the Subdivision Rules & Regulations, Adam pointed to 3.4 and 3.10; erosion and sedimentation control. Matt will forward his email question to Adam, and the response received. It may be that any changes to the Town bylaws, concerning stormwater, will be ready for the 2017 Spring Town Meeting.

Phyllis Luck distributed copies of: a) the new MS4 draft permit; b) a document outlining requirements to be focused on in the first year of the permit; c) a sheet comparing requirements of the current permit to requirements of the draft permit; and d) the Town's NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit and Annual Report for the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. Documents a & b had been sent electronically on January 30.

The \$40,000, set aside for Stormwater in FY16 by the Town Manager, was discussed at the February 2 Board of Selectmen meeting. It was determined that small amounts for workshops and miscellaneous items, could be approved by the Town Manager directly, but that larger amounts to be spent, on things such as hiring a consultant, matching funds for grants, or unanticipated remediation for stormwater issues that arise during pavement projects, should be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen for approval.

In preparation for the next meeting, members will review the current MS4 permit, dated 2003; and the Town's NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report, for the period April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015 (both documents will be sent out electronically later this week by Phyllis Luck).

Members will also review minutes of the January 13, 2016, initial meeting of the Stormwater Task Force (sent electronically January 22, 2015). Hopefully, members will also review these minutes, so that both may be approved at the next meeting.

Matt Allison will contact the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission to discuss what part they could play in helping with stormwater. Dave MacDonald offered to meet with the Town Administrator in Spencer to discuss their involvement in the Central Mass. Regional Stormwater Coalition. Both Matt and Dave will report back on the outcome of their discussions at the next Task Force meeting.

There was a discussion about the purchase of rain barrels (quotes from 3 vendors and corresponding websites had been emailed to members on January 16); members will review the quotes and view the websites so that a decision on which to purchase, with grant money obtained by the Town Manager, may be made at our next meeting.

The group decided that the Task Force will schedule our meetings for the second and fourth Thursdays of each month; start time will be 6:30 pm; we will meet in the first floor conference room at the Ritter Building, if the meeting attracts a large audience, we can move to the basement conference room. If the meeting needs to be televised, we'll arrange to meet at Town Hall.

The next meeting of the Stormwater Task Force will be on Thursday, March 10, at 6:30 pm, at the Ritter Building, first floor conference room.

**Motion: D MacDonald
To adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm.**

**2nd: M. Allison
Vote: All in Favor**