

Caroline Watershed Committee Meeting Minutes 1/16/18

Attendance: Mark Witmer, Barry Goodrich, Kristen Hychka, Lucy Gagliardo, Jackie Cassaniti, Angel Hinickle

Mark asked if anyone would like to take over the chair of the watershed committee and he would become the liaison from the committee to the town board.

He said Don Barber will have a meeting to train people to run meetings, this will be at the town hall on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:30. He also said the watershed website needs updating to let the people of Caroline know what is going on, put in upcoming meetings pertinent to the watershed about stormwater, erosion and sediment control, and to publish the committee meeting minutes (after they are approved by the committee members).

Kristen asked about making a systematic watershed assessment to prioritize what needs to be done and to add a timeline, this was in connection with Mark's first topic of the structure, function and goals of the committee. It can help people see what has been done and what needs to be done, such as stream stabilization. She suggested a sub-committee to look at tributaries and ask for community volunteers. Barry suggested a "visual stream assessment protocol" for Caroline, with all the tributaries that are known and on homeowners' land. Before going out, they should look at maps to do a preliminary check to look at known tributaries. Angel suggested asking Ag and Markets and TCSW for flood plain maps. Tom Mallory is the part-time engineer for the TCSW, he could check for engineering funds and needs, such as those on Beaver Creek and on John Lychalk's property.

Mark said the WQIP grant for Ekroos Road culvert replacement was not approved; the town will put it on a list for future funding. He said this is an expensive project as opposed to those that are \$50,000 or less. He also said the Buffalo Road part II work will start May 15th 2018, this is total-ly funded by FEMA, the call for bids will go out soon (it was supposed to be 1/15/18).

Lucy asked about Six Mile Creek work on the Lounsbury Farm that was recently added to the Finger Lakes Land Trust; but there is no problem with federal funds being used on land trust land. The DEC (NYS) approves buffered areas along stream, and that is what needs to be done at this site. This has to be managed, can't do it and forget it.

Next Angel said she and Anthony Arce, an intern at the Syracuse Environmental Financial Center, wrote a stormwater management plan draft, dated 7/15/ 2016, and now it will be updated. She said with Anthony's help, she was able to plug in Town of Caroline information to the template she made for the Tompkins County Stormwater Management Plan. Mark asked her what are the changes and compliances needed for the town; usually the new plans call for new requirements in such items as aquifer protection, illicit discharge, and ditch mapping - including culverts. Angel said the TCSW has a closed online mapping tool for municipalities. Angel then went over the draft to show what needs to be changed and/or updated for the Town of Caroline (ex, just change county to town in some cases). The town was last audited in March of 2013, and

the DEC has someone in training to do that now. Highlights of her talk included: the MS4 part has to be checked by the town code enforcer, the DEC can fine a company or person on a construction site up to \$41,000 for improper sediment control; and in the Town of Caroline oversight is on ½ acre sites because of the hilly terrain. Also, what are measurable goals and who inspects projects such as the Boiceville Cottages. Another thing is the use of hydroseeders, one can be borrowed from TCSW as long as the municipality has a driver with a CDL driver's license.

Tompkins County is on a list to get up to \$10,000 from the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017, to help replace failing individual septic systems, to be overseen by the Tompkins County Health Dept. Lucy wondered if those septic systems could affect the wells, but Barry and Mark said as an example, the aquifer in Slaterville Springs is deeper and confined.

Kristen went to the Upper Susquehanna Coalition meeting in Owego last week and it might be possible for the town to get vegetation for the Owego Creek area where there are buffers needed.

And Andy Sansone, an industrial waste engineer from Monroe County, will be going to Syracuse for a half day talk to highway department and soil and water people, there is a charge.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti