

Caroline Watershed Meeting Minutes 3/20/18

Attendance: Mark Witmer, Barry Goodrich, Lucy Gagliardo, Kristen Hychka, Joe Lychalk and Jackie Cassaniti

Mark said the Buffalo Road work is in good shape, awarded to JB's Excavation Services. The permits are done, FEMA is OK with the project. Work to start after 5/15/18 and should take about 2 weeks. The contractor is getting the materials together, such as the large rocks.

There will be an updated stormwater report for 2018 presented in April to be worked on by Barry and Mark, and Kristen will review the MS4 report. She said Brad DeFrees and Anthony Arce of the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, went over a report that needs to be specialized for Caroline, and Mark and Kristen will check it.

Barry has asked the TCSW water resource engineer, Tom Mallory, to look Six Mile Creek and its tributaries to evaluate problem spots such as Beaver Creek and Joe Lychalk's property, so Joe can apply for a permit to work on the area.

Mark and Superintendent Whittaker will be going to the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization's Watershed Summit in Seneca Falls on April 19th at 9am at the Seneca Falls Community Center. Kristen may also attend.

Barry would like Cindy to look at the TCSW online mapping site for culverts. Can culverts in Caroline carry flow from 100-year floods?

Barry attended the Agricultural District Law Workshop at the Ramada Inn to get certified to get grants for the town; and he also attended the meeting by the Environmental Management Council at the Library's Borg Warner Room about Unique Natural Areas and critical environmental areas in Tompkins County. Nick Hollingshead talked about the wetlands' size for DEC (12.4 acres) and the National Wetlands Inventory (5 acres).

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) are affecting lakes in our area and NYS is working on trying to stop them with a \$12 million grant. Sometimes the HABs last for a few years and go away for a few years, it is something that will be studied.

Barry also said that buffers between creek water and land need to be managed, not left alone as they will become damaged by the water. An example is that cattle are fenced off from getting into creeks, that is good, but the land between the fence and the water needs care to stay beneficial.

Lucy brought up the subject of gray water. Should Tompkins County be looking at the possibility of using it since there is so much building going on especially in downtown Ithaca? Joe mentioned that the water in Six Mile Creek is getting less over the years as he takes pictures from the same spot every year.

Kristen mentioned that the Water Resources Council subcommittee she is on will have their ditches conference in the fall. She has talked to Rebecca Schneider from the Cornell Local Roads project and others and they are putting together some topics; they also want to get some ideas from farmers, highway superintendents and pictures of before and after photos of projects in the area.

—Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti