

Caroline Watershed Committee, Tuesday 5/15/18

Attending: Joe Lychalk, Becky Dewitt, Mark Witmer, Barry Goodrich, Kristen Hychka, Lucy Gagliardo

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Mark Witmer.

Agenda item #1 - Buffalo Road and Buffalo Creek project – beginning tomorrow with machinery and rocks moving in, a week from now it will start – plans to be a 2 week project. Barry will be present on site while it is going on.

Becky expressed concern about a barn that looks like it is falling into Buffalo Creek.

We discussed that creek erosion mitigation is the responsibility of the land owner, unless the creek is threatening infrastructure, or introducing pollutants into the creek. This is a situation that should be looked at?

We had a quick history of the Watershed committee, which started as a gathering of homeowners and Barry (then on the town board) to try to solve some creek erosion – which lead to the two areas of creek work called Barille I and Barille II. The Caroline Watershed Committee officially formed in the year 2000.

Agenda item # 2 – Stormwater Management Program Plan

Mark had sent it by e-mail for the committee to review. We will discuss it at the June meeting then present it to the Town Board. It is a requirement of the DEC that that plan be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Thank you to Kristen for all her hard work.

This discussion blossomed into a discussion of many other things – The Stormwater Law of 2007, the Aquifer Protection Committee, which is working on a protection plan, hydric soils (poorly draining soils) refer to the County soil map to see where those areas are, the county has a wetlands map, DEC is the regulatory agency for wetlands, there is wetlands hydrology, soils, and vegetation that are used to help define a wetland. The city of Ithaca has managed stormwater separate from sewer water.

Agenda item # 3 – Becky Dewitt attended the meeting to express her concern about the garbage along the roadsides and wanted to help organize a town clean up day.

This would be considered a watershed committee issue since roadside and ditch garbage can end up in streams. Ideas and issues were discussed - Town liability insurance, getting access to road maps, equipment and supplies for volunteers, dates, times etc. it was pointed out that the time of year is already on the late side – the time to do with would be late April before plants started growing. Date and time chosen, Saturday June 16 from 10 am to noon.

Other items discussed: Angel was planning a ditch maintenance training, there is a July 27 deadline for the Water Quality Improvement Project Program (WQIP) funds.

Submitted by Lucy Gagliardo