

Watertown Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) minutes

March 17, 2022 4:00 PM @ Virtually

In attendance: Janet Buck (Chair), Laurel Schwab, Matt Shuman, Cambria Ung.

Visitors: David Gardner, Nick Haddad

I. **Welcome :** Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

II. **Discussions / Actions**

A. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 2022 meeting were approved.

III. **Reports/ Status Updates**

A. **Committee membership:** Nick Haddad is still waiting for his application to be reviewed. David Gardener expressed interest as well. He has a background in electrical engineering.

B. **MS4 Permit: Matt's Report**

- Bids have been opened for work on this year's street construction. The streets will be Chester, Boylston and Locke. Construction is expected to begin in the next two months. The work includes a number of tree trenches and is projected to remove 2.5 lbs. of phosphorous/year.
- Watertown has also received \$250,000 in AARPA funds to make stormwater improvements in the Cottage Street area, to reduce flooding along the Greenway.
- Stormwater filters are being installed in the DPW arking lot, projected to remove 0.2 lbs. phosphorous/year.
- The Stormwater Management Plan is being updated.
- The website is transitioning content from the old to new website.
- This year's budget has been submitted, including \$300,000 for drainage improvements.

C. **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant – Laurel Schwab**

The group is now working on the community greening process, to define the most vulnerable neighborhoods. Three streets have been identified for complete streets treatment, others for tree trenches. Most likely locations for tree trenches are between Lexington Gardens and Main Street, and between Palfrey and Main.

Complete Streets options are currently Dexter, Templeton and Francis. See attached plan. The team is trying to reach community groups for input and engagement. The consultant for this project is Weston and Sampson. Janet suggested trying to find contacts in the St. Stephens community, as well as the Housing Authority. Community meeting is still TBA.

- D. Climate Action Plan Updates: Laurel:** A draft plan has been circulated for review, and the review period is now closed. The comments are being compiled for the consultant and the final should be released at the end of March.

IV. Discussion / Actions:

A. Other Outreach Activities:

1. Stormwater Walk(s)

- **WMS** - A stormwater walk has been traditional done by the SAC for the 7th grade at WMS. It was suspended the last two years due to Covid. Janet will reach out to see if it is back on the schedule.
- **Live Well Watertown:** Laurel will see if they are interested in a walk that would relate to the MRVP grant activities.
- **Other Groups:** It was agreed that if we set a date and place, it will be easier to attract groups and individuals. The number we can accommodate depends on the number of volunteers available to lead the walks. We should try to avoid “preaching to the converted” (ie Watertown Faces Climate Change) . If we set a date, we can spread the word via newsletters. Any City Councilor who issues newsletters could be asked to include it. Potential areas could include Linx, Common Street bioretention area, rain garden next to the Gables.
- The basic idea is to pick a date that fits into the schedule for the grant, yet features areas that look good. A tight window.

Announcements

Next Meeting April 21 at 4:00

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Buck, Chair.