



City of Watertown
Department of Public Works
Department of Community Development and Planning
Stormwater Committee

Stormwater Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026
Location: Remote participation only on Zoom
In Attendance: Nancy Hammett, Sean Harrington, Katie Swan, and Warren Tolman (joined at 4:39 pm)
Absent: N/A
Visitors: Chris Coner (resident) and David Stokes (resident and former SAC member)

Meeting commenced at 4:04 pm. Hammett chaired the meeting and took roll call.

1. Approval of Minutes

- A. May 28, 2026 minutes were approved unanimously (3-0).

2. Brief Reports/Status Updates

- A. Status of SAC resident member recruiting:
- Committee now authorized for seven members.
 - Membership consists of:
 - Five resident members
 - Two City staff representatives
 - Two resident positions remain vacant.
 - Staff liaisons now include representatives from Public Utilities and Community Development.
 - Recruitment remains a major priority.

Members discussed:

 - Producing a promotional video.
 - Increasing public awareness of committee vacancies.
 - Developing strategies to recruit additional residents.
- B. June 10, 2026, 7th grade stormwater walk:
- David Stokes explained the educational program originally developed in 2017–2018 with Watertown Middle School.
 1. Goals include:
 - Introduce students to stormwater management.
 - Connect classroom learning with real-world infrastructure.
 - Support the Future City curriculum.
 2. Students complete:
 - Classroom lessons

- PowerPoint presentation
- River walk
- Future City model incorporating stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

3. Walking Route

- Students walk approximately 2.5 miles through Watertown.
- Stops include:
 - Green streets, bioswales, rain gardens, storm drains, outfalls, permeable pavement, construction sites, and the Charles River.
- Each stop demonstrates stormwater management practices.

4. Educational Activities

- Students complete:
 - Stormwater Bingo cards
 - Observation exercises
 - Discussions about:
 - Pollution, rainfall, drainage, runoff, green infrastructure, storm drain stenciling
- Students are encouraged to think like a drop of rain and trace where runoff travels.

5. Student Engagement

Successes

- Small groups encourage discussion.
- Teachers actively participate.
- Students enjoy wildlife observations.
- Visual examples help explain engineering concepts.

Challenges

- Heat during June walks.
- Some students disengage.
- Teachers have become less strict about requiring completion of observation worksheets.
- Permeable pavement installations require maintenance, creating additional teaching opportunities.

C. Status of ongoing Stormwater Management Projects:

- Stormwater BMP installation near Dexter Avenue and Templeton Parkway.
- Continued maintenance of existing BMPs throughout the City.

3. General Business

A. City Administrative code

- I. Vote on Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk
 - a. Chair:

Motion: Elect Hammett as Chair.

Roll Call: All members present voted by roll call, 3-0 to approve.

b. Clerk:

Motion: Elect Swan as Clerk.

Roll call: All members present voted by roll call, 3-0 to approve.

c. Vice Chair:

Motion: Elect Tolman as Vice Chair.

Roll call: All members present voted by roll call, 3-0 to approve.

II. Draft review of SC procedures and protocol

- The discussion was postponed until the July meeting to allow members time to review the draft procedures.

B. Brief overview of past SAC activities:

1. Regulatory Responsibilities

- Upcoming MS4 permit requirements
- Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance
- Stormwater regulations

2. Project Review

Potential committee involvement in:

- Watertown Square redesign
- Walker Pond improvements
- Flood resilience
- Green infrastructure planning

3. Outreach

Possible activities:

- Business presentations
- Garden clubs
- Library programs
- Community partnerships
- Expanded educational programming
 - Katie has begun compiling historical committee accomplishments, while Nancy will prepare summaries of regulatory requirements.

4. Announcements

A. Next meeting: July 16, 2026 at 4 pm

5. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm

Minutes submitted by Katie Swan