

STORMWATER GROUP
AGENDA

27AUG08
5:30 PM
NEW HARTFORD TOWN LIBRARY

WELCOME

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Attendance:

Present
Hans Arnold
Ed DeSanctis
Doug Peterson
Liz DeGironimo
Roger Cleveland
Dave Reynolds
Ken Lowell
Frank Montecalvo
Gerald Green
John Meagher

Absent
Kurt Schwenzfeier
Robert Payne

AGENDA TOPICS

At the last meeting it was decided to request Town Attorney Gerald Green to advise the group on the matter of the recently received Notice of Claim related to open meetings.

Mr. Green is with us tonight and represented that the **Town provides coverage and legal defense to the Committee members through its insurance coverage** as regards the Notice of Claim. **If the Town is informed this coverage is not provided by the carrier, then notice will be given to the Committee members.** It was stated by several of the Group members that it was not the Group, but the Town Board who had decided to **close the Committee's working sessions to the public and instead involve the public of the Committee's work and recommendations by and through reports to the Town Board.**

While it may not have been fully understood by the Committee, Green explained the purpose and intent of this decision was to form a broad based Committee that could work efficiently on reviewing stormwater management issues, prioritizing stormwater projects, evaluating the best use of the \$2 million stormwater bond monies and make recommendations to the Town Board which would then authorize projects and expenditures. The Town Board was to make the reports of the Committee part of its regular agenda giving proper notice to the public in the same manner it notices the public of its regular agenda. At the Town Board meetings the

public was to be afforded opportunity to comment on and discuss the Committee report and ask questions before the Town Board acted on the Committee's recommendations. If a separate public hearing was deemed warranted by the Town Board with regard to any given recommendation, then such was to be scheduled.

The Group also noted that, from time to time, we have had private citizens attend and participate in our meetings. Highway Superintendent Cleveland has been publicly updating the Town Board following each of the Stormwater Group meetings, along with public information meetings on two proposed projects that cross Oxford Road. Meeting minutes have also been posted on the Town's website.

Also discussed were alternate approaches to improve dissemination of information. First, was to continue with closed working sessions, but provide more frequent and more expansive updates to the public. Second, was to open the working sessions to the public, while at the same time use variety of tools to get more information out to the public, and to receive public input. More extensive use of the Town's web site was one of several suggestions to get more information out to the public.

The Group was polled on the following question: Do you want to recommend to the Board that the working sessions be advertised as being open **to** the public? The answer was yes, and it was suggested that a public comment period of 5-10 minutes be programmed at the end of each working session for public comment.

Highway Superintendent Cleveland is to offer this proposal at the next Town Board meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for September 8, 2008 at 6:30PM at the New Hartford Public Library.