
ROCHELLE STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (SWAC)
MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 14, 2015

Call to order

Ron Stonebraker motioned and Jim May seconded to appoint Kent Reed as Chairman Pro tem. The motion passed by voice vote without dissent. Chairman Reed called to order the regular meeting of the Rochelle Stormwater Advisory Commission at 5:05 p.m. on January 14, 2015 in the City Hall Chambers.

Roll call

Present on roll call: Commission members Terry Danner, Jim May, Kent Reed and Ron Stonebraker. Four voting members present; had a quorum. Chuck Cawley, Tom Huddleston and Wayne Page were not in attendance. Also present were City Engineer Sam Tesreau and Mayor Olson.

Approval of minutes: September 10, 2014: Moved by Mr. May and seconded by Mr. Stonebraker, **“I move the minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting be approved.”** Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Public Commentary: None

Old Business:

1) **Greater Rochelle base floodplain/elevation study update:**

- FEMA has not yet established an open house date but expects it will take place within 2 months. The open house is required by FEMA as part of the approval process of the new preliminary FEMA maps. The City Engineer has expressed his concerns to FEMA and the ISWS about the delay in having these meetings as it will only extend the time to get the new maps approved. They haven't given a definitive answer as to the reason for the delay in scheduling the open house. The open house is necessary to gather public input before FEMAs final development of the FIRMs and adoption by the City council.

2) **Kyte River bank maintenance:**

- This project will take some time as it involves many landowners and utilities along the creek banks. Some of the residents are experiencing severe erosion along the banks adjacent to their lots. However, the School Ave bridge has resolved some of those issues immediately north of and adjacent to the bridge for approximately 200 feet. Stone riprap stabilization and grass seeding has been or will be completed by the end of April 2015.

3) **School Avenue bridge project status:**

- The project has been substantially completed as of this month and the remaining restoration work will be completed by the end of April 2015.
- The larger new bridge opening has already shown to be an improvement with efficient and unobstructed flows through the area under School Avenue. Less maintenance has been required, by the City Street Department crews, in clearing debris or ice from under the bridge than with the old box culvert.
- Pedestrians are using the new crossing facilities on the north and south sides and the City has received many compliments on the functionality, safety and aesthetics of the new bridge.

New Business: City Engineering and Street Department crews are in the process of reconstructing a section of storm sewer drainage pipe along the westerly end of Irene Ave. There have been several complaints about ponding water within the street and along the curb flowline as well as failure of the storm sewer pipe in the street. The City Engineer explained that it is not the intent to keep the curb flowline and/or the street free of water during or after certain storm events. The older storm sewers, that were installed years ago, were not designed to convey flow for a significant storm event but are instead able to convey the runoff for up to the 5 or 10 year event. The street itself will act as an overflow route or conveyance system during the higher storm events. If all of the storm sewers were designed to carry runoff for the larger storm events it would be extremely costly to install the infrastructure. However, there are locations such as Irene Ave where the storm sewer and drainage systems, including existing curb, need to be reconstructed or updated. Unfortunately, these types of projects are very costly. With limited City funds and many other priority projects it is a challenge to address even a small percentage of the problem areas. The entire drainage project cost, for this isolated area along Irene Ave, is estimated at \$58,000 utilizing mostly City staff. Contracted cost would be much higher.

Announcements/Communications:

- Next scheduled meeting is March 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise notified by the City Engineer.

Adjourn Meeting: At 5:55 p.m., moved by Mr. May and seconded by Mr. Stonebraker,

"I move the meeting be adjourned." Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Minutes submitted by: Sam Tesreau
City Engineer