

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Brittany Montgomery
Date: 10/29/2009
Re: Stormwater

As you are aware the Town and its citizens are currently dealing with several stormwater issues. These issues have been on the Town radar for several years, but have recently come to a head because of the August 4th and September 20th storm events. These events have led to flooding in over one hundred households in the Town, many of them twice. Attached you will find a map that gives a visual depiction of the areas that flooded and the severity of the damage. (Please note: The areas marked are based only on individuals and businesses who reported flooding to the Town or FEMA. The number of homes that sustained damage is probably twice the number of reports.) As you can see the flooding was spread throughout the Town and was not localized to just one neighborhood.

At the Town Council meeting on September 21st Mr. Popp asked that a committee be formed to examine stormwater issues. The committee is currently made of the following staff members:

- Greg Isgrigg: Town Council President
- Tom Clevidence: Stormwater Director
- Rick Dickman: Redevelopment Director
- Mike Otto: Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager
- Sharon Wilson: Planning Director
- Phyllis Pooler: GIS Technician
- Brian Kaluzny: Parks Superintendent
- Brittany Montgomery: Grant Writer
- Harold Hart: Consulting Engineer

- Bob Polston: Building Commissioner
- Jeff Spainhour: Building Inspector

The committee has been reviewing several options to alleviate flooding and drainage concerns of citizens. Below is a report of the progress staff has made in resolving flooding and drainage concerns.

Disaster Relief Efforts

FEMA and State of Indiana

On September 24th, 2009 the President denied the State's request for a disaster declaration for Clark County. The disaster declaration would have provided financial assistance to homeowners and businesses affected by the August flood. The State of Indiana is currently appealing that decision. As part of that appeal the Town has been gathering information on homeowners and businesses affected by recent flooding. This information has been turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for inclusion in their appeal. On October 2, the Governor submitted the appeal to FEMA. It is expected to take 30 days to complete the appeal process and receive notification if the appeal is approved or denied.

As part of the appeal process FEMA is expected to return to the area and complete a second round of damage assessments. FEMA is expected to be in Clarksville this Tuesday to meet with residents and businesses affected by flooding and to review damages. Please note that this process is only for individuals affected by August flooding and those affected only by September flooding are not being included in the disaster declaration. The Town Council as well as citizens will be kept updated as more information becomes available on the status of the disaster declaration appeal.

Unmet Needs Committee

The Town is currently working with the neighboring communities of Jeffersonville, New Albany, Clark County and Floyd County, along with several non-profit organizations including Red Cross, Salvation Army and the Hope Crisis Response Network to organize an effort to address the unmet needs of the citizens affected by recent flooding. The committee is focusing on ensuring that the citizens have the basic necessities and are not living in unsafe/structurally unsound homes. Currently the committee is compiling a listing of individuals that need assistance and the forms of assistance needed. After this information is gathered a formalized effort will be developed to assist individuals. The group is currently meeting weekly and the next meeting will be Wednesday at 10:30 at the Salvation Army New Albany Headquarters.

Waiver of Building Permit Fees

The Staff realized that individuals affected by flooding are suffering financially. As a way to offset some of the costs associated with repairing damaged homes and businesses the staff is asking that the Town Council waive building permit fees for repair work associated with the

August and September flood events. While the waiver will cost the Town some revenue it is a small step that the Town can take to assist citizens.

Hazard Mitigation

The Town has submitted a letter to the state expressing an interest in applying for hazard mitigation funds. These are funds given to the state by FEMA to mitigate the occurrence of future disasters. These funds may be used to buy out homes affected by frequent flooding, improving the Town's drainage system, flood proofing of homes and of other mitigation activities. The state has expressed interest in working with the Town to determine what projects may be eligible. Currently the Town is waiting to hear back from the State on the formal request for assistance and begin the mitigation process. Notification from the State is expected within the week.

Infiltration and Inflow Removal (I&I)

One of the most common causes of basement flooding is stormwater seepage into the Town's sewage collection system. As the water flows into the wastewater collection pipes the system is overloaded causing water to back-up into individual homes and businesses. Most often the water enters the system through cracks, holes, joint failures, or the faulty connections of old pipes. Water also flows directly into the sewer system via downspouts, foundation drains, and holes in manhole covers.

The Town is currently developing a plan address I&I issues. The first phase of the plan is to smoke test areas of Town that have experienced frequent sewage back-ups. Smoke testing is the pumping of smoke through sewers from manholes in streets and observing where smoke exits. The exiting smoke can indicate a broken pipe or where roof or foundation drains are incorrectly connected. The results of the testing will be used to develop a plan to correct the identified issues. The plan is to test each area of the Town over the next few years to determine where issues are located.

The Wastewater Treatment Department has determined that the areas around Andalusia and Accrusia along with the Victory Court area will be the first to be smoke tested. After these areas are complete other parts of Clarksville will smoke testing dependent on funding. The Council and citizens will be notified in advance of the areas.

As Wastewater is smoke testing their lines the Stormwater Department will be televising the storm sewers to determine if any there are any cracks in the existing pipes or if any pipes are connected directly to the sewage system. After the areas are televised the Stormwater Department will be able to develop a plan to repair and/or replace pipes. Currently the following locations are targeted for televising:

- Lewis & Clark Pkwy

- Green Acres Interceptor

- Irving Drive and Evergreen area

- Library to Lewis and Clark
- McCullough Pike under Lewis and Clark Parkway
- Cedar Street Interceptor
- Adams Street Area
- Sherwood Ave./Cheryl Ct. area

Other areas will be targeted for televising after these areas are completed.

Stormwater Action Plan

In August of 2007 the Town commissioned the Engineering firms of Jacobi, Toombs, and Lanz and Stantec to complete a stormwater action plan for the Town. The plan was completed in December of 2008. As part of the plan the Town asked that the engineers to develop solutions to assist drainage in several key areas. Those areas are marked by different colors on the Stormwater Drainage Map. Please note that there are several areas that flooded that were not studied in the Stormwater Action Plan. These areas are now being reviewed by Town staff and the Town's consulting engineers to determine what steps are needed to resolve their drainage issues.

The Action Plan also contains a suggested project schedule for completion of each of the identified areas. The Stormwater Committee is currently updating the schedule to coincide with recent developments and available funding. A copy of the schedule as presented in the action plan is included with this report.

One of the first steps that the Stormwater Committee made was to determine a few areas that could be designed and constructed quickly to alleviate some of the flooding concerns. These areas were developed based on the following criteria:

- Their ability to address areas where homes and businesses have frequent flooding
- The area is not reliant on the CSX trunkline
- Costs are minimal ~ under \$300,000 per project
- The Town does not need to acquire a large amount of property

Based on these criteria the Stormwater Committee has determined the following areas should be targeted for drainage and stormwater improvements at the moment:

- Tupelo Drive and Greentree North (Area 3A)
 - Currently the area is being examined and a solution is being developed. The Town's consulting engineers are working on designing a solution and should have plans developed soon.
- Woodstock Drive (Area 7A)

- The Town is currently working with General Growth to develop a solution that resolves the drainage issues associated with this part of town.
- Drainage surrounding Little League, Accrusia and Andalusia
 - The Town's consulting engineers are currently finalizing engineer plans and should have the plans ready for construction bid by this Wednesday.

Please note that these are just preliminary and areas may be added a later date. No final decisions have been made.

CSX

An important aspect to the overall Stormwater plan is a central trunkline located down the abandoned CSX rail corridor. The trunkline will connect to several neighborhoods and is needed in order to address flooding concerns in the Greenacres, Beechmont, Lincoln Heights and Hallmark Heights neighborhoods. CSX officially abandoned the railline in the Spring of 2008. The abandonment has given the Town an opening to acquire the land. Currently the Town is developing contracts with appraisers to determine the value of the property. After the appraisals are completed a formal offer will be presented to CSX and negotiations will begin. Staff will keep the Council updated on these proceedings.

Website

The Town is currently developing a stormwater website. The stormwater website will provide information and regular updates to citizens on the progress of the Town's stormwater plan. The website will be linked from both the Town's main site and will be available directly at www.clarksvillesw.com.

Included in the website will be a copy of the Stormwater Action Plan, Stormwater Updates for citizens and a page that provides helpful hints for individual home and business owners to prevent future flooding issues.

Homeowner Self-Help

Several homeowners have asked if there is anything they can do to prevent flooding in their homes. While the Town does explicitly recommend any of the below options, they may be of use to homeowners that experience frequent flooding.

- Install a backflow preventer
- Install a plug in their basement drain

Homeowners can also assist the Town by not raking leaves or other materials into the catch basins and by not filling in their drainage ditches. These little things may make the difference between a home flooding or not flooding. Further information about these options will be available via the Town's website.

What's Next

The Stormwater Committee will continue to develop a plan to improve the overall drainage of the area. As solutions are developed and timetables for completion are finalized the Council and citizens will be updated. Also staff will continue to work with the State of Indiana to appeal the denial of Federal aid and obtain assistance for citizens with immediate needs. All citizens that have had current or have flooding in the future are encouraged to fill out the Stormwater report form on the Town's website or to call Brittany Montgomery at 812-283-1431.