Minutes of the Vernon Flood and Erosion Control Board of 26 Apr 2009

The meeting was called to order at 2:44 PM, Saturday, 26 April 2009, at the Community Room of the Vernon Police Station.

ATTENDANCE: Those in attendance were the following appointed members: Jim Hoover, Jim Tedford, Vishnu Khade, and Chris Haddock. Our Town Liaison, Terry McCarthy, Town Engineer, was excused and not in attendance as this was a Saturday and his expertise was not necessary for the purposes of this meeting. It was noted that there was a coincidence that all members either resided on Merline Drive or Trout Stream Drive.

MINUTES: The minutes of the 13 November 2008, meeting were approved by Jim Tedford, seconded by Vishnu Khade, and unanimously approved. NOTE: the board has not met since November owing to vacations not producing a quorum and severe winter weather preventing site visits.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jim Hoover officially welcomed Chris Haddock to the Board. He acknowledged gratitude to Wendy Wanchak for her years of dedicated and sincere service to the FECB.

2. Hoover thanked Jim Tedford for handling the board administration during his absence.

3. Hoover announced that at present there was no prospect for a fifth member; town hall has not identified nor have any volunteers risen from the community. This will be a continuing effort.

4. Hoover stated that he had contacted Mr. Art Christian of the State concerning the bonding commission's status on the Valley Falls and Walker's Pond projects. Hoover stated that Terry McCarthy had also checked with Christian. The status is that the State has suspended this and other projects owing to funding constraints. We will readdress this after 1 July 2009, after the new fiscal year begins.

5. The board discussed site visits and felt that we should start out the day with a revisit to Cemetery and Grove Street sites as we had not taken photos of this area.

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
09 MAY -6 PM 12: 37

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jim Tedford summarized the Tankerhoosen meeting which he attended over the winter. They had identified future problems, some of which concerned flooding and erosion control. Talcottville has some flooding problems and is again a concern. Erosion issues need study, mostly naturally made situations and some with capstone culverts which are man-made. The Taknerhoosen river area does not have many detention basins. Tedford noted that several areas had rusting corrugated steel pipes under the bridges. He stated that Clark Brook Pond is on the watch list.
2. Vishnu Khade had nothing new to report.
3. Chris Haddock reported that he had reviewed the link from the Town Engineer and that there was a concern from back yards of private parties. He stated that the Town does have an encroachment authority. Haddock asked about the status of funding for the Downstream Development Fund. ACTION: Hoover will check with Town Engineer McCarthy on the Encroachment authority and with Jim Luddecke, Town CFO, on the DD Fund. Additionally, Haddock shared a concern about the Town's new intranet GIS software. This will be a manner of all boards, commissions, Town Departments, and elected officials to communicate with one another. Haddock asked if we can obtain training on this system. ACTION: Hoover will check with Administration to see if this is scheduled and if so, when.
4. The Board discussed the annual report. Hoover passed on that the Town Administrator stated that it would be due after 30 June 2009. That being the closing date. Hoover will amass the report and forward to each member for editing. Goal to submit the annual report would be later in July.
5. We agreed that the next meeting would be 9 May 2009. ACTION: Hoover to coordinate the meeting site and required announcements with the town. Our meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM at the Police Station after the site visits described below.

SITE VISITS:

Site visits were made to Cemetery Road North and South, Mary Lane, and Rockville High School. Chris Haddock took pictures of the deterioration in these areas and will submit them for the annual report. The description and photos will be consolidated into the Annual Report. During the visit to Rockville High School, a perceived endangerment was noted with a flow of drainage that could puddle below a transformer. In the short time between this visit and the Annual Town Meeting, Chris Haddock took photos just in time to capture this situation. The following is extracted from the message sent to the Mayor, Town Council, and Board of Education Chairman. The Mayor has forwarded the e-mail and photos to the contractor for correction.

"In reference to my official comments at the Annual Town Meeting, held at Rockville High School, on 28 April 2009, I have attached the photos, which I received today, of the area of concern show the transformer, gully/rut, and a street level view of the situation. This was discovered during the Flood and Erosion Control Board's site visit on Saturday, 25 April 2009, which was our regularly scheduled meeting."

"You will see the rut where rain water flow would run. The transformer is near the flow line of the gully and is below parking lot level. The potential danger is that the water would flow downhill, puddle near the transformer which is embedded below level ground, and be a potential hazard. FECB, initially requests that this transformer be elevated to be safer; however, there may be other and better solutions. We feel that we have identified this hazard and encourage Municipal government to take action to investigate this potential hazard first before a student or other bystander is injured and secondly the town would become liable for an action."

Submitted,

James M. Hoover
Chairman, Vernon FECB