

Langhorne Manor Borough Stormwater Commission - Agenda
Monday, June 28, 2021 7:30pm – Borough Hall
(meeting recorded and filed with Borough Office)

Attendees: Alicia Gasparovic (chair), Isaac Kessler (RVE), Jim Keba, Fred Tomlinson, Kevin Oessenich, Heather Palladino, Lauren Shuke, Dawn Seader (Council President), Jay Ferraro (Borough Manager).

1. Approve May meeting minutes – approved with no changes

2. Isaac Kessler from RVE agreed at the last minute to attend our meeting, at the request of Borough Manager. Most of the meeting was spent with him giving the group an update on the grant application submitted for the Comly Ave project, as well as reasons why the Chubb Run project is on hold for now. Some highlights:

- Growing Greener grant was a good fit for Comly project. Due date was 6/25/21, submitted on time. Grant awarded in Nov or Dec 2021. If awarded to LMB, the agreements will be drafted in Jan/Feb 2022 and executed in March 2022, with the project completion later in 2022. Raingarden and detention basin preliminarily planned. Water from Station Ave, Hill Ave, and Hulmeville Ave will go into the facilities. No change is contemplated to the swale (ditch) along the East side of Hulmeville Ave.
- Borough Manager is working with Isaac on the updated Hulmeville Ave bridge reconstruction schedule and underground piping locations (GIS data being requested/purchased from Bucks County Planning Commission). Isaac feels relatively ok/confident about what is underground and the feasibility of this project, though it is not finalized yet.
- It was also noted by Borough Manager that some piping may need to be purchased by the borough before other next steps so that PennDOT can install them underground, depending on schedule/timing. Isaac noted that underground pipe installation/correction of undersized pipes is often not covered by grants. Dawn pointed out that LMB will be receiving \$140k or so money from the American Rescue Plan funding, which would help pay for this.
- It was noted that in heavy rain events, there is some flooding on Comly Ave now. Also noted that the open underground pipe at the corner of Comly and Hulmeville Ave will be changed to route water under Comly to the new basin. A question was asked about whether the capacity of such pipes will be sufficient for any increased volume of water. All new pipes will be sized correctly. It was also noted that it was unknown whether Comly Ave will be raised, or if the approach to the bridge will be lowered, as part of the Hulmeville Ave bridge reconstruction.
- It was noted that reparsing the borough land area will likely be unnecessary if we are only pursuing the Comly Ave project at this time. Isaac will talk to Lis Colletti (RVE) about the new Pine St curbing and any effect it may have on the parsing in/out of Cairn University land, and/or whether it will impact any additional requirements we may have for two lakes that are part of our watershed that Liz mentioned at the last meeting she attended and gave a PowerPoint presentation.
- The \$453k cost of the Comly Ave project was noted to include prevailing wage (Davis Bacon Act will be triggered), and is on the conservative (high) side bc it was used to ask for grant money and we don't want to underestimate and come

up short on funds. Otherwise, LMB was noted to not have any additional responsible contractor ordinance that must be adhered to. It was noted that the grant requires 15% matching funds (currently estimated at \$68k), and also noted that the American Rescue Plan funds coming to LMB can be used for the match (stormwater projects specifically mentioned as an eligible use).

- It was noted that additional grants may become available in late July or August, or even years down the road when we may pursue Chubb Run. DCED and PennDOT are good sources of grant information. Lauren noted that she put together a spreadsheet listing available grants that she could share.
- Liz Colletti (RVE) working on the DEP MS4 permit revision for LMB. Isaac expects that the Comly Ave project, and potentially several “corner swale retrofit projects” (tbd) will satisfy this round of DEP MS4 requirements for LMB. Potentially just Comly will be sufficient, but it makes sense to submit the new permit application with corner projects included just in case, which may never need to be completed. Similar thinking with regards to leaving in the (mostly abandoned) stone swale conversion project that was approved prior – in case we want to do just parts of the original swale project (perhaps in grassy areas where no trees or stone swales would be impacted). Easier to not complete included projects than to do additional public comment periods in order to add projects later.
- Chubb Run – if we pursue this project, it will take 1-2 years to design before construction begins. Effectively off the table for this 5-year permit cycle (which started Nov/Dec 2019, and clock MAY be restarted with DEP approval of new Comly Ave project plan), but may be a good project down the road. It was noted that future timing may be better for Middletown as well. The Growing Greener grant administrators confirmed that this grant isn’t intended to pay for investigative work, which is what is currently needed for Chubb Run. The grant administrators prefer that we be further along, so this grant may be more appropriate later for Chubb Run.
- A field review by RVE is needed to evaluate feasibility of any additional “corner swale retrofit projects.” Document was sent to RVE documenting possible locations. Time to schedule this field review soon. Could include amended soils in grassy areas.
- The 330 MS4 sediment reduction credits assigned to the Rivera property (approx. 200’ frontage) infiltration trench/swale retrofit was confirmed to be a good rule of thumb to use when evaluating other potential “corner swale retrofit projects.” LMB swales confirmed to be in the rights-of-way.
- Isaac confirmed that multiple grants can be used to pay for MS4 projects, even with one grant’s money being used as the match for another grant award. Paperwork increases but is possible. For example, combining headwall replacement with swale work could incorporate two different grant sources.
- Borough Manager expressed concern that redirecting water flowing down a N-S swale onto an E-W direction could increase water in the front yard of residents living on the E-W cross streets, which could cause concerns and is something he would like to avoid. Preferred to do treatment of N-S swales instead, perhaps with amended soils. That way even if the new facilities overflow in a bad storm, the water will still run downstream as usual. Isaac agreed, noting that the DEP doesn’t necessarily like to see a change in water direction, but rather prefers the water runoff be simply made to run slower and cleaner.

- “Legacy Sediment” was noted by Isaac as the latest buzzword, which may allow LMB to do a project down the road where we clean out drains/sediment rather than installing an entire new project. Important as LMB runs out of room to do new projects. It was noted that sediment is clearly clogging up Neshaminy Creek as today there are spots people can walk across that used to only be swimmable years ago.
- Isaac was reminded that this commission can map out existing gravel driveways if that would be useful during any remapping of borough land for MS4 permitting. Isaac recommended no action yet, but will let us know.

3. Next SWC Newsletter ideas (mainly deferred to offline communication and/or next meeting out of time concerns since the meeting had already run long). TO BE CONTINUED.

It was noted that we should keep in mind to include MS4 info in the regular LMB newsletter in addition to any SW newsletter. We can also ask RVE for SW articles to include.

- a) Dumping in woods – spent annuals, discarded Christmas trees
- b) Cleaning vs not cleaning swales – It was noted that some new residents have done a very thorough job cleaning out stone swales, which is nice and attractive but not always the best thing for clean stormwater. We may wish to recommend that residents at least NOT add cement between stones in swales when they clean out/tidy up, as this prevents water infiltration into the ground. Also not to dump loose lawn waste into swale. Could add photos of a “good” swale.
- c) Pervious pavers
- d) Previous articles deferred until next newsletter
- e) Composting
- f) Rain gardens
- g) Residential Stewardship topics:
http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2015/06/U3.-Residential-Stewardship-Practices-Fact-Sheet-in-Chesapeake-Bay-Watershed.pdf
- h) Other? Scavenger hunt / poster contest?

4. Next meeting – Monday July 19 at 7:30pm – agreed