

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
MANSFIELD/BRICKYARD STORMWATER GRAVEL WETLAND PUBLIC FORUM
September 16, 2020

Staff in attendance: Jim Jutras, Water Quality Superintendent; Chelsea Mandigo, Stormwater Coordinator/Wastewater Operator;

Others Present: Tabitha Wales, Kevin Kolinich, Danielle and Andrew Brown, SR, Michelle Mosley, Elisa Ziglar, Debbie Avery, Abhnniva Thulung, Ed Patterson; Maureen Cavanagh, Paul H., Michele Mosley, Debbie Avery, Carolyn K,

1. Brief Presentation:

- a. History of project including other Public Meetings held
- b. Pictures of another gravel wetland in the Village installed August 2019 vs. 1 year later of to show what this wetland could look like in a year
- c. Outline of public input process/discussion

2. Public Questions/Input and Discussion

- a. Why was South Creek chosen as a project site and not North Creek or East Creek?
 - i. Chelsea answered by explaining South Creek had an expired state stormwater permit and did not install the infrastructure indicated in the permit like the other Creeks. The Village was required by the State to bring these expired permits into compliance. This project is also part of the Village's MS4 Flow Restoration Plan and Phosphorus Control Plan.
- b. Was the land the gravel wetland built on donated to the Village or taken by Eminent Domain? The HOA has no record of the land being donated.
 - i. Chelsea responded that the land was donated and could provide the documentation. **NOTE CORRECTION SINCE MEETING:** Looking back over the project file initial discussion with South Creek Property Manager/HOA was to pursue donation of the land however later in the project the Village attorney advised an easement should be pursued rather than land donation. An easement to allow the installation and maintenance of the stormwater treatment practice was signed and granted by both South and North Creek to the Village.
- c. Is there any plans for fencing or plantings to address safety concerns related to the steepness of the wetland banks?
 - i. No fence or tree plantings were included as part of the design but the Village is amendable to discussing the installation of either or both to address the concerns of South Creek residents.
- d. Concern for long-term erosion and that the current plants are not enough.
 - i. The Village changed the design of the wetland slightly during construction to include 3 rock spillways as the contractor was already seeing signs of erosion from the roof gutters of the adjacent buildings.
 - ii. The plants should be reestablished by next growing season to properly keep the banks from eroding.
 - iii. Any erosion that does occur is the responsibility of the Village to address and fix.
- e. What is the drainage area for this wetland? Does it receive stormwater from Countryside?

- i. Chelsea responded drainage area included East, North, South Creek Condo, area of Brickyard Rd surrounding the condos. It does not include Countryside.
- f. Resident showed an image from google maps street view showing the loss of property behind some of the units due to this project. How this effect property value?
- g. There has been a noticeable increase in road noise, loss of privacy. Residents would like a solution that addresses this.
- h. It was noted by the residents that SD Ireland did a good job installing the practice.
- i. Residents expressed that they appreciate the Village having this conversation with them but wish that it had occurred prior to the stormwater practice being installed
 - i. Chelsea indicated that two public meetings were held regarding this project in 2017 & 2018. The Village understands that there needs to be some improvements regarding communication with residents as it relates to stormwater projects and is willing to change their process moving forward to hold more meetings like this during project development and prior to going out to bid for construction.
- j. State Fire Marshall Rule grills must be 10 ft. from building and that includes the deck because of the grading change some units no longer have this.
- k. Concerned that children will want to sled on the new hill in winter
- l. If either temporary or permanent fencing is installed placement is crucial as to not block folk's deck or take away any more yard space.
 - i. If residents decide fencing is a solution it is requested potential placement of fencing to be marked by spray paint so input can be given on location.
- m. Some residents were concerned about the liability the stormwater practice is placing on the Village if a child drowns in the standing water.
 - i. Chelsea responded that the practice is designed to infiltrate the water not hold water.
- n. How will the decision be made by the Village regarding the remedy to address residents' concerns?
 - i. Reason for tonight's meeting to receive ideas. Village is open to what the group thinks the best process is to come to a consensus and decision. Past practice has been to go through the Property Manager of a Condo Association who relays the info to the HOA board etc. Needs to be different for this project. Village staff will review concerns from this meeting, determine the amount of money, form solution options and hold another public forum where they can present the options. A vote will be held at that public meeting to determine the solution.
 - ii. Timeline for process? 2-3 weeks until have next public meeting as need to follow public meeting notice rule of 14 days
- o. Some residents have grass allergies.
 - i. Chelsea will send a list of the grasses planted