

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA
MINUTES
September 6, 2011

Meeting Open: The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Victor C. Trombley, John O'Rourke

Others present: Tom Spiro

Appointments

7:00 Bob Baker – Hurricane storm damage

Bob spoke about the washed out retaining wall in the center of Town. He said the bank was getting worse every day and needed to be secured. Chuck asked if a permanent wall could be installed instead of a temporary wall of riprap. It was agreed that the quickest solution that will last overall would be to install a new retaining wall made of riprap. Funding for this work will be from the NRCS and the Town will add 25% of the overall costs and engineering. Weston & Sampson Engineering and Northern Construction Services will perform this work.

Bob then spoke about other damaged roads and bridges that needed quick repair. He told the Board that residents were being told that school bus routes were being addressed first. Chuck noted that the Highway Department should work on each issue as they can. He will assist Bob with finding contractors to help repair damages. Because of the emergency declaration made by the Conservation Commission, many of the existing regulations near waterways would be suspended. Bob was encouraged to utilize all resources needed to get repair work completed. John expressed the concept that contractors who live in Conway should be given priority for work.

7:30 Richard and Jo Ann LaRoche – Claim for reimbursement for storm damage

Mr. LaRoche spoke about how the water had overflowed its banks onto the road and washed out their driveway. He said that the beaver baffle had exacerbated this problem and felt that the pipe on this equipment should have been removed before the storm arrived. He also felt that it should have been engineered differently. Chuck confirmed that the pipe did block some of the stormwater but that this storm event was unique and that no problems had been caused by the Town. Mr. LaRoche blamed the beaver culvert for all of the damage done and asked again why it hadn't been removed in advance of the storm. Bob agreed that all beaver pipes flooded eventually and that they should be pulled out.

Chuck then explained that FEMA will be addressing personal property losses. The LaRoche's were given a phone number to contact FEMA to begin the application process for reimbursement. They asked for a load of gravel to temporarily make driveway crossing possible. Bob agreed that there may be additional bank run gravel to use for this purpose and Chuck concurred.

8:00 Phyllis Labanowski, Sandy Hay and daughter – (walk in) Geo-cell retaining wall

Phyllis and Sandy, who live on the South River where the retaining wall was washed away, were given an update regarding a new riprap retaining wall to be installed where the geo-cell wall had been. They were invited to join a meeting the next morning with funders, engineers and construction personnel to discuss options and details of a new wall.

8:10 Jim Matus – Removal of outbuilding

The Board read an email from the Conservation Commission that required Mr. Matus to remove his cabin, as it had been built on the banks of the Roaring Brook. Mr. Matus did not disagree with this assessment but wanted to forestall the removal and relocation of his cabin until a logger clears a site next year. He wanted the Selectboard to support this request at the next Conservation Commission meeting, and explained that he would need to plan and carry out this relocation in at one time. The Board agreed that they would speak with Peter Jeswald about this issue but did not promise they would be able to change the ruling of the Commission.

Meeting items

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- The warrants were signed.
- The Board voted in favor of allowing a bake sale to take place on Elm Street to raise money at the Festival of the Hills.
- A warrant article was proposed and accepted to raise \$50,000.00 to cover the 25% portion of the cost of fixing the South River Wall Emergency Project. This would be added to the meeting to be held on September 27th.
- It was discussed that Mr. Farrick was required to report to the Board of Health with regard to the oil spill at 22 Academy Hill Road.
- The Board spoke about the placement of the Osgood easement. There was agreement on how much it would be moved.
- John reported on the meeting on Wednesday, Aug 24 at 3:00 PM with Terry Williams, Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services concerning our progress on transitioning to the FRCOG accounting system, general Town financial matters and calculation of Free Cash.
- John reported on the MEMA Conference Call on Friday, Aug 26 at 12:30 PM concerning preparations for Hurricane Irene.
- John reported on the FCAT meeting on Friday, Aug 26 at 2:30 PM with Doug Finn, all around FCAT executive, and Bob Armstrong, Chair of the Broadband Committee and FCAT Board member, concerning the video equipment requirements and purchase for the Town of Conway.
- John reported on the Emergency Management meeting on Friday, Aug 26 at 3:30 PM with Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, concerning preparations for Hurricane Irene and plans and preparations for the opening and staffing of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Emergency Shelter at the Conway Grammar School.
- John reported on the Emergency Management meeting on Saturday, Aug 27 at 4:00 PM with Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, Dave Chichester, Assistant Emergency Management Director and Chair, Board of Health, Sue Bridge, Emergency Management Public Information Officer and Board of Health member, Bob Baker, Fire Department Chief and Highway Superintendent, Ken Ouimette, Police Chief, Randy Williams, Ambulance Director, Adam Baker, Assistant Fire Chief, Bob Benson, Lieutenant, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Technician, Chris Herrmann, Fire Department member, Helen Baker and Heidi Flanders, Fire Department Auxiliary, concerning preparations for Hurricane Irene and plans and preparations for the opening and staffing of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Emergency Shelter at the Conway Grammar School.
- John reported on the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that opened on Sunday, Aug 28 at 6:00 AM and the Emergency Shelter at the Conway Grammar School, that was scheduled to open on Monday, Aug 29 at 12:00 PM, but opened on Aug 28 at 12:00 PM due to the evacuation of residents living in the center of Town because of flooding. EOC and the Emergency Shelter closed on Sunday, Aug 28 at 6:00 PM after Ashfield reported that the danger of a dam breach at Artist Lake, the head of the South River, had passed, flooding in the center of Town had receded and evacuees could return to their homes.
- John reported on the meeting on Monday, Aug 29 at 11:00 AM with Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, and Gordon Bailey, MEMA Rapid Assessment Team, to assess public storm damage in Town.
- John reported on the meeting on Monday, Aug 29 at 12:00 PM with Carl Gustafson, State Conservation Engineer (Amherst), United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Jonathan Coté, Civil Engineer (Amherst), USDA, NRCS and Louise LeGouis, Civil Engineer (Amherst), USDA, NRCS and Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, to assess the damage to the South River Wall.
- John reported on the meeting on Monday, Aug 29 at 3:00 PM with Bob Baker, Highway Superintendent, and Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, to assess the damage to the public road system in Town and plan the preparation of reports for Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and other state and federal agencies.
- John reported on the Finance Committee meeting on Monday, Aug 29 at 7:00 PM.
- John reported on the meeting and tour of Town public roads on Tuesday, Aug 30 at 5:00 PM with Dave Rodham, MEMA to obtain an initial assessment of damages.

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- John reported on the meeting on Wednesday, Aug 31 at 10:00 AM with Bob Baker, Highway Superintendent, Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, Dan Lawrence, Project Manager / Senior Associate, Weston & Sampson, Carl Gustafson, State Conservation Engineer (Amherst), United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Jonathan Coté, Civil Engineer (Amherst), USDA, NRCS and Louise LeGouis, Civil Engineer (Amherst),USDA, NRCS, Rita Thibodeau, District Conservationist (Greenfield),USDA, NRCS, Lisa Hall, Soil Conservationist (Greenfield),USDA, NRCS, to further assess the damage to the South River Wall and plan immediate and longer term solutions.
- John reported on the meeting on Wednesday, Aug 31 at 1:00 PM with Kevin Prior, MEMA, concerning the information that MEMA would require to determine threshold levels for state storm damage assistance for both public and private damage including name, address, type of damage, damage description, estimated repair cost. Discussions followed with Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director and Dave Chichester, Assistant Emergency Management Director and Chair, Board of Health, to use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to inform residents of the need for this information and methods of collection of the information.
- John reported on the meeting on Friday, Sep 2 at 9:00 AM with Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, concerning the information that MEMA would require to determine threshold levels for state storm damage assistance for both public and private damage including name, address, type of damage, damage description, estimated repair cost and the use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to inform residents of the need for this information and methods of collection of the information. Rick Bean informed me that Dave Chichester, Assistant Emergency Management Director and Chair, Board of Health, was not in agreement with the use of EAS for this purpose.
- John reported on my conversation on Friday, Sep 2 at 3:30 PM with Craig Sessions, West County Equipment Rental, concerning the accident on Thursday, Sep 1 involving Adam Baker, Highway Department, while driving an excavator along Shelburne Falls Road.
- John reported on my conversation on Friday, Sep 2 at 8:00 PM with Dave Chichester, Assistant Emergency Management Director and Chair, Board of Health, concerning the use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to inform residents of the need for reporting storm damage information and methods of collection of the information.
- John reported on my conversation on Saturday, Sep 3 at 9:00 AM with Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, concerning the script for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) call to residents to inform them of the need for reporting storm damage information and methods of collection of the information.
- John reported on the Emergency Management After Action Meeting on Tuesday, Sep 6 at 1:00 PM with Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director, Dave Chichester, Assistant Emergency Management Director and Chair, Board of Health, Sue Bridge, Emergency Management Public Information Officer and Board of Health member, concerning the operation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Emergency Shelter at the Conway Grammar School.

Mail and Other Items

- Mail items were reviewed.

Next meeting will be 09/6/2011

9:55 PM Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Chuck, seconded by John, all in favor.