

**TOWN OF NEWSTEAD DRAINAGE BOARD  
MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2006**

Members Present: Mark Decker  
Don Kreher  
Mike Rushok  
Dan Kowalik  
Jim DeYoung  
Dave Berghorn  
Mike Bassanello – Highway Superintendent

Others: Brian Murray – Town Board  
Harold Finger – Town Board  
Rob Klavoon – Wendel Engineering  
Jennifer Heberling – Recording Secretary

Meeting started at 7:00 pm by Mark Decker.

Began with discussion on situations being brought in front of the Drainage Committee at this meeting.

Doug Ceisner – 12379 Main Road – Doug's ditch is partly a county problem. Don K. believes that cleaning out the ditch behind Newstead's Fire Hall would solve some of Doug's problems. The property is in Federal Wetlands and you can go in and clean but you can not dig it out.

David & Corinne Alessi – 4468 S. Ayers Road – Discussion on Alessi's property. Committee looked at drainage plan. Committee feels swale should drain to the south (instead of the north) and drain into the creek.

Brian VanVolkenberg – 12834 Dorsch Road – Discussion on VanVolkenberg's property.

Adrezej & Elizabeth Klapa – 7029 Scotland Road – Committee believes that Sergi will be cleaning out ditches after the weather breaks. Scotland Road is a county road and that ditch may need to be cleaned out. Don K. asked Mike B. if the highway department could shoot some grades.

Don Holmes – 5078 Crittenden Road – ditch is currently very dry.

Doug Ceisner presented copies of the survey of the lot. The culvert under S. Newstead Road dumps water onto his property. He wants the ditches cleaned up so the water will flow. Mark D. questioned the ditch around the back of his property. Referred to map for Federal Wetlands. Explained that they are not able to do anything because it is in the wetlands. Doug claims water from across the street is dumping onto his property and that, he claims, is illegal. Doug wants to know that if he has his property removed from the wetlands, will the Drainage Committee clean out his ditch. Mark D. stated that the ditch will be put on the list after he gets it out of the wetlands and it will be properly prioritized.

Corinne Alessi and brother in law Matt Meyer appeared before the board. They explained that when they built their house, a preexisting drainage ditch was moved further back on the property, by the builder. The water doesn't actually flow, but ponds behind their shed. It has gotten as close as 2 feet from the shed. Dan K. believes that because the parcel to the north is undeveloped, it could hinder the flow of water. It appears the drainage plan that was given when the house was built didn't continue. It seems to just dump the water. This situation will have to be discussed with the Town Engineer. The homeowner would like to fill in the ditch. The committee believes this ditch is overflow for the creek. It was suggested that possibly mowing the property to the north would help the drainage.

Brian VanVolkenberg appeared before the board. He claims that he had no knowledge of his property containing state wetlands. The water came up high enough that it floated his child's playhouse away. He wants to know what he should do to fix this problem. Wants to know if he can either build a berm to block the water or possibly run a pipe to drain the property. He was advised by the committee to walk the creek and see if he can find out if something is blocking the flow of water. Homeowner claims he is going to bring in fill and may try to build a berm.

Andrzej Klapa appeared and stated that he found out about the committee from his tax bill. He stated the ditches on Scotland Road are in bad shape. On the west side of Scotland there is no outflow. The entire east side of his property becomes swampy. Scotland is a county road and this would have to be referred to the county to clean out the ditches. The property in question is in the Federal

Wetlands and Flood Zone. Sergi will be back to clean out the ditches on Mr. Klapa's side of the property. The final restoration of the ditches has not been taken care of yet. We will send a letter to the county.

Don Holmes spoke to the board about his drainage problem. There is low spot between Don's house and where the Fitch's used to live. The low spot is lower than the ditch. There was a drainage swale put in from the low spot to the thruway. When new houses were put in, they were put in high. The swale is now gone. Water from Marty Dugan's house drains in Mr. Holmes low spot. Mr. Holmes wants a drainage swale reinstalled between Marty's house and the next house after him. Don K. believes that this should be taken care by the homeowner that got rid of the swale.

Paula Karaszewski of 12250 Swift Mills Road appeared in front of the board about her drainage issue. There is a stream in the back yard and the water has come up higher this year. It has not reached her house yet, but it is much closer than last year. This whole corner is under review with Wendel right now as to how to set the water pipe. Rob stated they are going to bore under the culvert pipes on the east side of Greenbush and will run the water pipe under the culvert. This entire piece of property is in the 100 year flood plain. Any action has to be granted through the DEC. Don K. suggested walking the creek to see if there is anything blocking the flow of water.

Rob stated that Wendel now reviews all drainage plans for sub-divisions and commercial projects prior to their approval. He also feels that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to figure out how to remove the water from their own property.

The question was raised as to what happens when the "drainage plan" doesn't work due to other property stopping up the water.

Rob suggests that the Dorsch Road property submit a site plan for mitigation.

Next meeting will be held on April 18th at 7:00PM.

The minutes from the February 15, 2006 meeting were accepted. Motioned by Don Kreher, second by Jim DeYoung, and all approved.

Don K. asked to have the drainage minutes distributed to the planning board to keep them informed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Jennifer Heberling  
Recording Secretary