

**TOWN OF NEWSTEAD DRAINAGE BOARD  
MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2006**

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

Others: Brian Murray – Town Board  
Mike Middaugh – Village Board  
Bob Kowalik – Village Board  
Andrew Casolini – Wendel Engineering  
Jennifer Heberling – Recording Secretary

Meeting started at 7:00 pm by Mark Decker.

Andrew started by saying the GIS is completely updated. This includes ditches mowed over the last 2 years. It will include open issues and any capital projects. Andrew will get drainage easements and some elevations plotted also. Mike has been getting some easements for off of Fletcher and Moore Roads.

Bob Kowalik appeared to present a problem on Murder Creek at the sewer plant when there is wet weather. There is major blockage on Lewis Road with the majority of it being large uprooted trees and growth. The DEC is assisting with this problem. They have received permits to do emergency work and to trap beavers. Within the next week the Village will go in and start cleaning it out but they are looking long-term at getting it completely cleaned out. Mark & Andrew think the DEC permit should be issued to go as far down the ditch as possible.

The board was also advised that Aakron Rule would most likely be calling again. At this point Aakron Rule is working on restoring their retention pond.

Most of the focus now is on Murder Creek. Andrew believes chain saws would be the best place to start with this problem. Probably will have to start at Route 93 and work from there. The Town can go in with hand tools without a DEC permit. When you begin to change the depth is when you would need a permit. Andrew will look into any grants that may be available but he doesn't think he will be successful.

Discussion on Brian VanVolkenberg on Dorsch Road. He wanted to build up his back yard so they could landscape and put in a pool. He came in and met with Andrew, Christine, Mark Decker and his builder after the last drainage meeting. The explained to him what his options are and that he needs to have the DEC come out and he needs to apply for a fill permit. The Committee would like John Good to visit and see how things are going.

Discussion with Andrew on the other people who appeared at last months meeting.

Don Holmes issue – he needs a ditch between Marty Dugan's house and the next door neighbor. This should be at the homeowner's expense.

Don Kreher feels the drainage committee should make some type of recommendations. Andrew feels that most of these types of problems should be intercepted at the building department.

A letter needs to go to Don Holmes letting him know where the committee stands in regards to his situation.

Andrzej Klapa on Scotland Road. The committee asked Andrew if the water line crew can put the ditch back where it was? Andrew will look into this.

David Alessi – S. Ayers Road. Andrew met on site with the contractor. This is an overflow ditch that the homeowner need to maintain. Basically this is the contractor and homeowner's problem. The ditch on Kidder's property next door needs to be cleaned out. Code enforcement needs to handle this. A letter will be sent to the homeowner including the memo from Wendel that is attached to these minutes.

Paula Karaszewski – Swift Mills Road. This property contains 100 year flood plain and federal wetlands. When it dries up the highway department will go in and clear some of the willow trees and other debris.

Andrew passed out a list to add the building department in handling residents concerns/complaints. Andrew wants the map to include historic problem areas in the Town and what the problems are.

A complaint from MaryAnn Torrelli of 12475 Stage Road was brought to the attention of the committee. The ditch behind her property needs to be cleaned of shrubs and weeds which are disrupting the flow of water. The committee discussed the situation. They will do an evaluation and it will be added to the list. A letter will be sent to Mrs. Torrelli explaining that her situation will be weighed and evaluated against the current problem list.

Talked about Dick Euhlenberg on Hake Road, Paul Muck on Utley Road and Cliff Albrecht on Brackett Road. Mr. Albrecht wants to know if the creek behind his house is on the schedule. It can be put on the long term problem list.

There was a discussion on purchasing the timber ax. This is the same one Dale wanted. Mike feels it is going to save a lot of time. He stated we can rent one for \$5,000 per month and the purchase price is over \$20,000. We have a trailer to move the equipment and it should be able to mow 6 inch brush. Marks concern is getting \$20,000 worth of work out of the machine or would it be more economical to hire some of this work out. Mike says it is expensive to maintain and Andrew is interested in what the "Asset Life" is.

The equipment fund and drainage committee would pay for the equipment. The committee thinks they should rent one for a month to test it. Mike will make some calls to see if they can get a demo on the timber ax.

Next meeting will be held on May 16th 7:00PM.

The minutes from the March 21, 2006 meeting were accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Jennifer Heberling  
Recording Secretary