

ACTON PLANNING BOARD

Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 6, 2014 (approved 2/20/2014)

ROLL CALL:

Members present: Chip Venell – Chairman
Jessica Donnell
Yoli Gallagher
Arthur Kelly
Gavin Maloney – Alternate
Robert Smith – Alternate

Members absent: Tom Cashin – Vice Chairman (excused)

Also present: Ken Paul, CEO; Brenda Charland, Recording Secretary; Virginia DeBoer, Video Recorder; LaMarr Clannon, Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:02 p.m.

1. January 16, 2013 Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Donnell to accept the minutes as written; the motion passed unanimously.

2. New Business:

LaMarr Clannon, Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO), Low Impact Development (LID) Planning Strategies:

Ms. Clannon stated that everyone contributes to water pollution. Rain events have recently elevated in intensity and occurrences. Increased construction, roadways, parking lots, establishing non-vegetated areas, road maintenance all create opportunities for rain to wash into nearby water bodies carrying surface contaminants with it. Prevention is the best approach to water quality management. Establishing watershed areas with less than 5% hardened ensures healthy water bodies.

New Low Impact Development management approaches are based more on retaining water onsite so that it can seep into the ground. Rain gardens, green roof surfaces, porous parking lots, web-based gravel parking lots, interlocking gravel-based paved walkways and parking areas all allow rainwater to seep into the ground instead of running offsite. Establishing rain gardens, perimeter drains, planters, or tree wells around buildings also catch and retain rainwater.

Comparing stormwater management processes reveals that retention ponds actually contribute to pollution by the third year and require maintenance. Porous asphalt parking lots, bioretention systems, subsurface gravel systems actually come close to a level of 100% pollutant removal and require minimal maintenance and function longer

Effective local changes can be made by establishing buffer zones and keeping them intact, offering stormwater management incentives, and through the ordinance. Stormwater utility charges based on

property owners' hard surface area distribute the cost of preserving water quality more fairly and reduce the tax burden.

3. Old Business:

Stormwater Management Subcommittee: The Subcommittee will meet on February 13th and 27th.

4. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.