

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM
ADDRESSING MANOR BROOK AND STORMWATER
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carroll, Galicki, Porter, Nairn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Berger and Canton

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Street Commissioner Alder, Engineer Haibach, Solicitor Matheney

VISITORS: Peter's Ipad, Chris Smith, Nancy Moran, Larry, Scott, JoAnn and Bob Royer, Chuck Hauser, Brian Monroe, Leah McComb, Kelly Kimball, Tamera Chess, Ann Wishhart, Elke Neumeyer, Gene, Brian Doering (CVT), Linda's Ipad, Laura, Mike, Ian Mullins, Chris Bell, Wamcd, Mark Jackson, Judy, Jim's Iphone, Kim Brewster, Kyle Canter, Giovanna, Tim S, Gary, Greg Heilman, Phyllis Marino

The Mayor called the Special Council meeting conducted via the teleconference service Zoom to order. Fiscal Officer read the roll. Berger was absent and Canton recused himself.

The Mayor stated that this was the third of three Manor Brook Headwater grant meetings. The first took place on January 4th and a second on January 18th. The Mayor explained that the meeting would address the Village of South Russell geography, the Manor Brook project, the past efforts, and future situations dealing with Manor Brook.

The Mayor explained that the Village is four square miles. He stated that Chillicothe Rd. is one mile long and basically a dam that stops the water from flowing. Utilizing a power point presentation, the Mayor described the geography of the Village. He stated that the high point of the Village is Sun Ridge and pointed out two low points: one on Snyder Rd. and one by the power lines. From Sun Ridge, water flows to Lake Louise, Paw Paw Lake, Silver Creek, and eventually up through Russell Township. He further stated it flows from Sun Ridge to Kensington Green, behind Village Hall, into Chagrin Lakes, and down to McFarland Creek.

The big problem the Village is currently addressing is Manor Brook. He explained that Manor Brook is the name the Village is using for the grant it received to address the water issue. The Mayor explained that CT Consultants did a study for the Village in 2004. At that time, the Village took care of Chelsea Court for \$470,000. Other recommendations of the study were to get ahold of an area near Fox Run and Gurney Elementary School for upstream detention before Sugar Bush Dr.; create a culvert on Chillicothe Rd. near the Lantern and Family Life Center; modify Kensington Green's spillway; replace the 15" culvert with a 30" culvert near Village Hall; and replace a 12" culvert with a 30" culvert on Manor Brook Dr.

Referencing the presentation, the Mayor indicated the location of the stream enhancement or the floodplain that will be addressed this summer through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection

Agency (OEPA). The grant was obtained through the efforts of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) and will take the water that flows into Manor Brook and will extend and stretch it down a stream enhancement. He then reviewed the geography and water flow within the Village. The Mayor explained that the effort was started by Kim Brewster, CRWP, in August 2018 when she put on her hip boots and walked the area. She worked with CT Consultants and developed an approach for the grant. The idea was presented to Manor Brook residents in January of 2019 to discuss what the Village wanted to do on their property. The Mayor turned the meeting over to Brewster and Engineer Haibach.

Brewster explained the grant application process. She said CRWP is a non-profit watershed organization that serves member communities in the Chagrin River Watershed as well as communities across the Central Lake Erie Basin Region. The Village has been a member since 2002. She explained that the grant is an OEPA Section 319 grant, which means it is based on Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. To qualify for the grant, it is necessary to walk the site and do a stream or wetland restoration assessment. The proposed project must be located within an approved watershed plan for the watershed in which the project is located. The projects require a 40% local match. She explained the match would be provided by the community and sometimes by private landowners if the project were on private land. They are three-year grants, and the timeline includes developing and releasing a request for proposals for design work in year one; construction of the restoration project and installation of plantings in year two; and the third-year entails education and outreach associated with the project. With these grants, the projects must improve Ohio State water quality standards. It can address stormwater issues, but the project must improve water quality for the State's water resources. Brewster said that subsequent to the January 2019 Manor Brook HOA meeting, the grant application was submitted in March 2019. She added that these are competitive grants Statewide, and the Village was awarded the grant in July of 2019. The total budget for the project is \$460,000. The grant itself is providing \$276,000 and the local match is \$184,000. Brewster stated that the project is an unnamed primary headwater stream that is currently impacted by channelization. It is disconnected from its floodplain and impacted by stormwater. The impact is due to suburban development in the nearby drainage area. Brewster advised the Engineer would discuss the conceptual planning and design work that was done by CT Consultants.

The Engineer referred to the presentation and described the current conveyance of water through the Village and problems associated with it which included water flowing at high velocities. The Engineer discussed the culverts involved with the drainage and identified the need to resize a 12" culvert to a 36" culvert. This would resolve part of the problem but would present problems downstream. There were several issues the Village wanted to address with the stream enhancement project. One would be to make the downstream area more suitable to handle the water. Secondly, the project area west of Chillicothe Rd. drains poorly due to grading. The project would vastly improve the grading on the west side of Chillicothe Rd. and allow the secondary streams and pond to join the primary stream. He referred to the presentation and explained that the goal would be to take the linear streamline and increase the length and the curvature of the stream to slow the velocity and allow the stream to expand to a new floodplain during a large rain event. The Engineer further explained that the goal would be to have this area be equal to or greater than the area that is on the east side of Chillicothe Rd. that currently floods. This would allow the Village to replace the 12" culvert and get the water across Chillicothe Rd. to eliminate the flooding while managing and maintaining the water on the west side in areas that will not flood homes. He reiterated that the goal of the project would be to prevent water from pooling on the east side of Chillicothe Rd. and let it pool safely within the project area on the west side of Chillicothe Rd. with a net zero effect of properties downstream. He acknowledged that

CRWP was dedicated to improving stream water ecology and habitat, and this project would do this and satisfy the need to manage the water effectively.

The Mayor provided data relative to the project which was reflected on the presentation, and the Engineer explained photographs of similar projects with which he had been involved.

Leah McComb, Coral Company, asked how many trees would be removed and asked if the Village would mark them, specifically along Manor Brook Dr. The Engineer explained that the Village would not be taking any trees out on Manor Brook Dr. The project would occur in two locations to the north and south of Manor Brook Dr. The vegetation in the project area that is within the floodplain area would all need to be cleared because that is where the floodplain and grading would be taking place. The Engineer stated there are not a lot of significant trees in the area, but only thorny brush. The project includes planting trees and woody vegetation that are native to a riparian area flanking a natural stream. McComb asked the Engineer to describe the phases and duration of the project. The Engineer advised the project would occur in one phase with two different project sections. The project would occur over a four-month period. McComb asked what disruption the Engineer would anticipate along the Manor Brook Dr. entrance, and the Engineer stated very little. The excavation would occur well off the road for most of the project. There may be some construction traffic that would periodically have to cross the road while work was occurring in the area immediately adjacent to the road. McComb verified that no vehicles would be stored on the main road, and the Engineer stated all storage would be done off the road.

Chris Smith, Fox Run, asked the Engineer about the culvert pipes that cross Chillicothe Rd. He asked if both would be increased in size. The Engineer stated just the lower one. The elliptical reinforced concrete pipe to the north is of sufficient capacity to drain the area, and the one presenting the problem is to the south which needs to be increased. Smith asked if the culverts underneath Manor Brook would be resized. The Engineer explained that this is a triple culvert that goes underneath Manor Brook which is sufficient to convey the water. Smith referred to the ditch at the upper culvert and asked if it would be cleaned out on the east side. The Engineer said it would not be cleaned out as part of the project but would be brought into better shape after the project. Smith asked if changing the stream had to go through the Army Corps of Engineers. The Engineer stated that both the Army Corps and EPA are necessary approval agencies for the project, and it had been approved by both.

The Mayor asked the Engineer to explain the appearance of the Madison project pictured in the presentation. The Engineer said that the project in South Russell would have a different appearance than the one in Madison Village because Madison did not want a lot of larger trees growing in the project area since it runs through a cemetery. The Village project will contain more vegetation, so it provides shade and cover for the aquatic habitat in the stream and to keep the water temperature down. Brewster concurred and stated that this is a tributary to the north branch of the McFarland Creek which is designated as a cold-water habitat.

Nairn asked whether traffic would be maintained during the modification of the culvert under Chillicothe Rd. Although the culvert replacement was not part of the project, the Engineer advised that he hoped the project would be completed before the Village replaced this culvert in order to responsibly manage the water that discharges from the culvert. Regarding traffic, he suspected it would be one lane at a time.

At 7:30 p.m. the Mayor stated the Manor Brook portion of the meeting was complete. He discussed the Village Headwater Stream and Wetlands Restoration projects. Brewster explained that this was a

319 grant funded project, and the origins of it went back several years. She stated it was for the stream located just south of Village Hall. Another portion of the project was located in South Russell Village Park. It was constructed in 2020. In the summer of 2017, a conceptual restoration plan for the site was developed by Enviro Science at no cost to the Village through another 319 grant. There were some stormwater challenges for the stream south of Village Hall. The original concept for the site included work further upstream which was ultimately excluded. The grant could not fund any sort of stormwater basin type improvements. The approach that was selected was to restore the stream channel and install streamside wetlands along each side to give it an area to spread out, slow down, and soak in during high flow events. The project restored 452 feet of stream to include grade control structures. Originally .65 acres of wetlands were to be installed and ultimately 1.17 acres were restored at the project site. The site in the Village park was a tributary to the north branch of McFarland Creek. Because of historic use of the land for agriculture, the stream had lost its channel. The project restored the area to a headwater riparian wetland that allows rainwater to fall in the area, to be stored, and then to slowly soak into the ground. Pictures of the project were shared through the presentation. She cautioned that it would take a season or two before judging the aesthetics of the project area.

The Engineer added that neither project was meant to be a retention basin since they were not fundable 319 grant projects. However, both increased the amount of water storage and slowed release during a large rain event. He would have wanted to widen the floodplain to maximize the space because it is a problem stormwater area due to discharge from the Kensington Green pond. The water crosses under Chillicothe Rd. through another undersized culvert, flows to the swim lake at Chagrin Lakes, proceeds to the long pond on Royal Oak, and then out to McFarland Creek. During a large rain event, there is flooding across Chillicothe Rd. The Village is considering additional improvements in this area to maximize stormwater storage and prevent overtopping the road.

The Mayor pointed out a photo of the Kensington Green swale where water flows through to Village Hall as well as photos of where the new culvert would eventually need to go. He then described the Village Hall 319 project and water flow. The Mayor pointed out a privately owned dam in Chagrin Lakes and explained that the dam is wearing out. He also addressed the man-made lakes in the Village and said that most of them are probably getting full of silt or have required dredging. Unfortunately, there was no money to help maintain a lake or pond. EPA would simply say that the stream was there and residents should take down their dams and let the stream flow. The Mayor stated that this was one of the issues the Village had been facing and would be coming up.

The Mayor also addressed water that flows through Country Estates.

The Mayor stated that the Finance Committee would hold a meeting the following morning to discuss the financial issues to deal with Manor Brook and the lake. The Council meeting will be Monday, February 8, 2021. The Mayor stated that tentatively Council would need to ratify the agreements with Manor Brook because their property was being used. Once this is accomplished, the Village can go out to bid. He hoped construction could start in the spring.

The Mayor stated that there is a minor issue between Laurel and Country estates due to a swale that had filled with debris. He stated that the Village had just taken care of Laurelbrook Dr., Daisy Ln., and Woodside Dr. by spending \$15,000 to get the ditch flowing.

He described the waterflow through various areas in South Russell and difficulties experienced by residents.

The Mayor addressed speaking to the Fox Run community about their corner property. The Mayor stated that if the Village could get the corner of Bell and Gurney to put in a retention area, it would help Sugar Bush and Chelsea Court. The Engineer said he was excited at the possibility of having the opportunity to get some stormwater retention at the corner of the Fox Run/Gurney School property. This area was highlighted in the 2004 Stormwater report and it still holds true that this would be a great area for stormwater retention. If the Village could utilize the property to increase stormwater retention, he fully supported this.

The Mayor stated that there is a retention pond where Bainbridge and South Russell meet. The Village was able to put a device to slow the water that flows from the Lantern and Family Life Center to Chagrin Lakes.

Jim Flaiz, Chagrin Lakes, asked Brewster about her comment about the project south of Village Hall where originally there were plans for a larger project, some of which was not done. Flaiz asked if there was ever a retention element to the project, or what part was not done? Brewster stated there were some modifications to Bullfrog Pond in addition to a swale area northeast of Bullfrog pond. Both components from the concept plan of 2017 were located on private property and would have required the consent of the HOA. The Bullfrog Pond modifications were not eligible for the OEPA Section 319 grant program. Additionally, there was some hesitation from the HOA to allow the project to occur on their property at that point.

Regarding replacement of the 15" culvert located adjacent to the Village Hall 319 Stream Restoration project with a 30" culvert, Flaiz asked the Engineer when this would occur. The Engineer said he did not have a date yet. Calculating the volume of water that comes through the culvert from Kensington Green west towards the Chagrin Lakes swim lake, the Engineer stated that culvert needed to be 30". The 319 grant project completed a couple of years ago provided more stormwater storage on the east side of Chillicothe Rd., but it was a drop in the bucket as far as what needed to happen. The issue was with the water that builds up on the east side of Chillicothe Road, overtops the road, and then rushes onto the swim lake. The velocity creates a lot of damage downstream and closes the road for the duration of the overtopping. It would be ideal to replace the 15" culvert with a 30" culvert with a staged orifice on the upstream side. During a normal rain event, water would continue to be restricted on the east side of Chillicothe Rd., only discharging through a 15" hole. At the point it would overtop Chillicothe Rd. it would then drop down into a 30" culvert which would handle the entire flow without overtopping the road. He acknowledged that Flaiz's concern was the amount of water coming into Chagrin Lakes. The Engineer further explained he would like to make modifications to Bullfrog Pond in Kensington Green to increase the storage capacity. This would be the only way to hold water back and release it in a more controlled way to mitigate the rush of water. To accomplish this, the water level could be decreased to allow it to swell up more during a rain event. Increasing the size of the pond would also be beneficial. It is adjacent to Village property and theoretically the size of the retention could be doubled. He has a strong handle on the amount of water that comes in and goes out, but he did not know whether just reducing the static water surface elevation in that pond and letting it swell up more would be enough to solve the problem. It would help, but according to the numbers it is not enough to solve the problem. The Engineer said that in reality, lowering the static water surface elevation in the pond and increasing the size of the pond would be what is necessary to mitigate the water that flows to Chagrin Lakes.

Flaiz thought Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) was going to repave Chillicothe Rd. this summer, which would be when all the culvert work would be done. The Engineer said he had not received confirmation from ODOT about this and not for lack of trying to get in touch with them. ODOT gave the Village a strong indication that they would be paving Chillicothe Rd., and he did not want to cut open the brand-new pavement to replace culverts. He wanted to get them in before the road is paved but had no firm confirmation that the paving would occur in 2021. The Engineer broached the topic of ODOT paying for the culvert replacements and possibly have the Village pay for the inlet restriction on the upper end of it. However, he has received no response.

Flaiz asked the Engineer if there were any plan to enlarge the culvert under Chillicothe Road at Sheerbrook and the culvert that is about 100 yards north of that. The Engineer stated no. With the retention ponds that went in as part of the Lantern as well as the outlet control device the Village put on the Federated Life Center Pond, there had not been the build up on the east side of Chillicothe Rd. that there was previously.

The Mayor offered to stay on Zoom to answer questions after the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, Nairn made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m., seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki