

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, Porter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bell

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Street Commissioner Alder, Administrative Assistant Galicki, Solicitor Matheney

VISITORS: Jerry Penick, Countryside Dr.; Gene Seminaro, Manor Brook Dr.; Brian Monroe, Manor Brook Dr.; ~~Ken~~ Kevin Keesler, Cascades Dr.; Tim Geisse, Ridgecrest Dr.; Heidi Baumgart, Paw Paw Lake Dr.; Joe Piannecki, Paw Paw Lake Dr.; Dwight Milko, Paw Paw/Bell Rd.; Patric Fransko, Paw Paw Lake Dr.; Jeff Greenlief, Chillicothe Rd.; Sven Nielsen, Southwyck Dr.; David Giordano, Fox Trail

The Mayor called the Special Council meeting to order and the Administrative Assistant read the roll. Bell was absent.

VISITORS: Tim Geisse, 48 Ridgecrest Dr. thanked the Village for the stormwater projects. He explained that years ago, Lake Louise was crystal clear, but is not now due to construction runoff. He asked the Village to consider ways to reduce or slow down storm water runoff to the lake. Geisse said he did not really have a problem with water coming into his house during rain events but heard of other neighbors who did.

STORMWATER DISCUSSION: Utilizing the attached PowerPoint presentation, the Mayor described the flow of water through the different parts of the Village. He described that Sun Ridge is the high point in the Village with water flowing to Lake Louise, Paw Paw Lake, and eventually to Silver Lake. During storms, much of the water flows to Lake Louise. The community has an aeration system that puts water in the retention pond to kill bacteria. The Mayor added that Sun Ridge is on septic systems. Ideally, everyone's septic systems works properly and water that comes into Lake Louise is clean, but that is not the case. The Mayor further described the waterflow involving the Silver Creek area.

The Mayor explained that when water reaches the Family Life Center, which is in Bainbridge Twp., there is a retention basin that did not work. The Street Department staff installed a pipe in that basin to hold the water and allow it to eventually flow out. In the fall of 2022, the Village split the cost with the Family Life Center of cleaning out the retention basin to keep it functioning properly. This was necessary to prevent stormwater overflow across and Chillicothe Rd.

Water coming from the other side of Sun Ridge flows into Kensington Green. Most of the Kensington Green water is channeled underground through pipes. In substantial storms, however, it goes into Bullfrog Pond and then flows out to the Village property. In 2020, the Village engaged in a 319 grant to install four little retention ponds. The Village's share of the project was \$37,000. The ponds did a good job, but were not enough to prevent water from overflowing and shutting down Chillicothe Rd.

Regarding the Central Retention Basin project, Berger explained the purpose of the basin is to catch water coming from Bullfrog Pond. It was built with a 500-year storm in mind and was designed to catch, hold, and slowly release the water across Chillicothe Rd. From there, the water flows to the swim pond of Chagrin Lakes and down to the lake at Parkland Dam. The culvert pipe under Chillicothe Rd. is the next project and will be done this year. Based on a few storms that have occurred since its completion, it seems to be working. Hopefully it will resolve issues with water overtopping Chillicothe Rd. It also slows down the water flowing to Chagrin Lakes which then reduces pressure on the swim lake and on Parkland Dam.

The Mayor said that in 2004, a Master Stormwater Study was done through CT Consultants. In 2018, the north area was studied, and in 2021, an update was done to the Master Stormwater Study. The difference between the 2004 and the 2021 study is that everything that needed to be done is now larger and more expensive. What CT predicted in 2004 has come true in 2023.

The Mayor continued to describe the water flow through Chagrin Lakes and Parkland Dam. He described the issue faced by the Parkland Dam residents with the repair of their dam. It is a private lake, and they are financially responsible. The Village has collaborated with the County Auditor along with Bainbridge and Russell to create an Erosion Special Improvement District (ESID) that assists the residents in financing such repairs.

The Mayor explained that stormwater from the red barn ultimately heads north and then turns west under Chillicothe Rd. The water then goes into Manor Brook, where there are three 24" culverts which allow the water to flow right through. Porter explained that the Manor Brook project was originally a larger project to create a flood plain and involved Whitetail and Manor Brook Gardens. However, only Whitetail was interested in participating in the project and the flood plain was constructed on the north parcel of land. Going forward, the need for the Manor Brook Gardens parcel will have to be evaluated. The last part of the project will be the landscape screening for Manor Brook. Phase II will have to be negotiated with Manor Brook Gardens.

Four culverts, two south of Bell and Chillicothe Rd. and two north, will be replaced that are conduits for waterflow from the eastern side of the Village to the western. The ditch that runs along Chillicothe Rd. on the eastern side has been part of the problem in that the culverts are undersized. The project to replace the four culverts will be bid out by the end of January and done by August 2023. It will be disruptive on Chillicothe Rd. during construction. Ultimately, the new culverts will mean that water from the east side will have a much bigger inlet and outlet to get to the west side. The Manor Brook project and Central Retention Basin were done first so as not to flood residents on the west side of the Village with the new culverts. The projects are expensive. The Manor Brook Phase I project cost \$460,000 with a \$268,000 grant from the Federal Government. Porter said the 319 grant was helpful with the Central Retention Basin as well with the Federal Government or State of Ohio paying part of it. Berger agreed. The Solicitor explained that the Central Retention Basin was paid with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Porter concluded that the burden on the taxpayer was less than it might have been otherwise. Of the recommendations provided in the 2004 and 2021 Master Stormwater Studies, there are only a couple more projects to do, to include Phase II Manor Brook.

The Mayor said the water flows from Manor Brook to Fox Run to Sugar Bush. Berger explained that the water flow from the Central Retention Basin crosses Chillicothe Rd., goes through Chagrin Lakes, to the Parkland Dam, and then empties into open land. And that the Manor Brook water goes through Fox Run, and then crosses to Sugar Bush, to Chelsea Court, and into Bainbridge and MacFarland

Creek. Berger added that it is a question of whose basements it goes through before reaching this point and how can the flooding be avoided.

Porter discussed the Chelsea Court project and its success from 15 years ago.

The Mayor reviewed the waterflow through the Village. The Parkland Dam slows the water but is wearing out and is being addressed by the ESID. Porter explained the ESID process and that the county puts the expenses on the residents' taxes for 20 years. He equated it with putting in a sewer line. Country Estates also has a pending petition. It would be an idea for Lake Louise as well. Porter described it as being like a 0-interest loan with a 1% fee over 20 years. He clarified that projects should be solving an erosion problem.

David Giordano, Fox Run, asked what the Village's criteria would be to enact Phase II. Water engineers would be able to tell the Village. What the Village currently wants to see is the amount of flow that will be going under Manor Brook subsequent to the creation of the floodplain. Ideally, the water will not be flowing any faster or stronger through the three 24" culverts than previously. A participant asked if these culverts were being replaced, and the Mayor said there was no need to do so. The Mayor thought the test of the project would be a 100-year storm. Giordano said that once the water comes to Fox Run, it goes through a series of three separate culverts within Fox Run. The first one is in front of his house, and it will back up and turns into a 40-foot-wide retention pond in front of his house. Berger further explained that Phase II involves privately owned property of Manor Brook Gardens and in order for the Village to implement Phase II, there must be a negotiated easement. There is nothing requiring them to participate.

Cavanagh asked for the location of the culverts that will be replaced. Porter said there were two north of Chillicothe Rd. and Bell Rd. and two south. There was further discussion and clarification of the location of these culverts.

Giordano expressed concern about the implication of opening up the culvert with erosion for Fox Run. If Phase II was not possible, would CT Consultants come in and analyze the flow rate of the water, or what would be the next mitigating step? The Mayor said if Phase I was not enough, then CT would say Phase II was necessary. The Mayor explained that with Fox Run, the water stays in the residents' yards, but when it crosses over it goes into peoples' basements.

Monroe said he was confused about how the water would be slowed downstream with the installation of larger culverts. This would accomplish getting water off the east side of the road and bring it to the west side to the flood plain and retention pond. From his understanding of the design, the flow downstream is not being changed. He thought this was the whole idea of the project. Monroe thought the purpose was to get the water off one side of the road and on to the other and then slowly release it, but not any more quickly to Fox Run. However, it will not be released more slowly, so there would still be a flooding problem downstream in a heavy rain. Without knowing how the floodplain would act quite yet, Porter did not know that this was correct. It may slow the water. It is designed to take the increase in waterflow from the culvert replacement project and not make anything worse. Monroe pointed out that the flood plain is not a retention pond, and he was told it could only hold water from 8 to 12 hours. How would the water back up and hold in the flood plain? There was discussion of a temporary check dam, and Monroe asked if this was currently in place. It was critical to Monroe that this not be permanent. The Mayor explained that the water will take longer to get there because of meandering streams and rocks, etc. which will slow it down. A participant asked if there was a restrictor on the culvert because he thought this had been discussed to test out the system. The Mayor

said there would not be restrictors. A participant asked how much more water the flood plain could hold and the Mayor said he could get this information. Monroe thought there was discussion about putting a restrictor on one of the culverts, and the Mayor said he did not know yet. Porter did not recall this. Cavanagh explained that the Engineer was currently out with a medical issue and could not attend the meeting, which put Council at a disadvantage. Monroe felt certain there was discussion about the restrictor because of the culvert's potential of making the situation in Fox Run worse.

The Mayor discussed the proposed Phase II project. He showed pictures of a similar project in Madison. The Mayor explained a device on the culvert on Bell Rd. near the Fox Run bridge that measures stormwater. It would be a good indicator of whether the project worked. A participant asked if there was any comparative data, and the Mayor said no and that it would be based on feedback from residents.

The Mayor described the problems faced by the residents of Sugar Bush, which is a private road.

One of the last projects done by the Village was a wetland in the park. The project cost \$37,000 and was designed to catch the water from the park that flows north into Country Estates.

This completed the Mayor's slideshow of Village projects.

Jeff Greenlief, Chillicothe Rd., said that despite the Central Retention Basin, there was still a lot of water washing through to his neighborhood from Bullfrog Pond in Kensington Green. He proposed an easement with a low-tech ditch behind Kensington Green that directed water to the Central Retention Basin. Berger thought it made sense and should be addressed with the Engineer. Mayor suggested running the ditch to the Lantern. This would be discussed by the Public Utilities Committee.

Monroe asked if the culvert at the Central Retention Basin was being replaced with a larger or smaller culvert. Porter said it would be larger. Monroe said this would mean the water would be flowing faster to the creek downstream than it currently is. Porter disagreed and said the Central Retention Basin would slow the water down. Monroe continued to question the rationale with the larger culvert, and the Street Commissioner explained that there would be an apparatus on the east side of the road to restrict flow. Once the basin fills up, it would go through the overflow to keep from flooding Chillicothe Rd.

Monroe asked the same question about the Manor Brook culvert and whether it would have a restrictor if it were determined the water was coming too fast downstream. Porter said it was not being installed with one, but one could be put in if needed. Porter added that restricting the flow would defeat the purpose and thought the floodplain would address the problem of the water travelling downstream too fast.

Giordano reiterated the concern of the Fox Run neighborhood with the potential of an increase in flow rate and volume. It would be helpful for the Homeowners' Association (HOA) to have the data from the stormwater measuring device to know if a restrictor is needed or further negotiations for Phase II. The Mayor thought what would be key is feedback from the residents. If they are getting more water and more erosion, the Village will need to do something. Giordano asked about the data from the device, and the Mayor said it is provided to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) monthly and could be requested as a public record. Porter said Fox Run could help stormwater issues in the Village through a retention pond where the gazebo is located. If Fox Run would grant an easement,

the people of Sugar Bush and elsewhere would thank them for it. Giordano said this was a controversial topic.

The Mayor discussed the silt issues around the Village. Paw Paw Lake, Lake Louise, Southwyck, and Bellwood have silt problems. There is no solution to handle silt that is filling up the lakes. It falls onto HOAs. Heidi Baumgart, 95 Paw Paw Lake Dr., said Paw Paw Lake is the leach bed of South Russell. Looking at area elevations, she noted that everything was flowing through and depositing silt into Paw Paw Lake. She acknowledged Paw Paw Lake is private, but 30% of South Russell is affecting their lake. After the Dominion gas work, more of the water goes over the road and into their pond as well. The Lake Louise projects caused silt to flow into the lake. Furthermore, Baumgart added that Lake Louise's failed septic tanks also flow into the lake. The HOA cannot keep up with the costs of the problems. Paw Paw paid for dam remediation and road reconstruction which had to be split between 42 homes. They did not get a penny from South Russell. State money was identified, but South Russell would not co-sign on the loan for the funds. She wanted a silt remediation plan and explained that she was not interested in an ESID. Paw Paw has already paid for so much on its own and it is not their silt that is flowing into the lake, but the rest of South Russell's.

Monroe said much of the Village has the same situation with sediment ponds and a sediment program might benefit the entire Village. Like Paw Paw Lake, Manor Brook does not have the money to clean their lake, which, if cleaned, would benefit the new project. If everyone could team up on the problems on private property it could help everybody. Joe Piannecki, 71 Paw Paw Lake Dr., said when Paw Paw Lake was built, the lake was pristine because nothing was around it. The problems were due to building and people who pay taxes to Village. The cost to dredge the silt pond was \$50,000 to \$60,000. The community could not afford to dredge the lake, so it will become a big mudhole. A common solution is needed.


Patrick Fransko, 74 Paw Paw Lake, wanted to address the situation with the upstream problems with septic systems not being maintained. They had to engage professionals to maintain the lake because of the quantity of contaminants that are running into it. It is not coming from Paw Paw Lake since all septic systems have been updated. He reiterated what Baumgart and Piannecki said about the expenses born by the Paw Paw Lake community. Piannecki added that the Village allowed development and wondered if any consideration was given to this problem occurring. The Village collects taxes from the homes and developments, but the lake is their problem. They did not cause the problem and who is going to help them? Fransko reiterated that the septic issue needed to be addressed and suggested that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would get involved if they were to take measurements. It is a safety issue with swimming.

The Mayor said the following would be addressed in the Spring newsletter: silt remediation; the easement behind Kensington Green; CRWP Hi-flow data; septic tests; and testing of the water in the Village.

Canton considered stormwater runoff to be the biggest problem in the Village. There is a delicate balance between public and private and he was not sure how much the Village could legally do. However, as elected officials, they were there to serve and look for solutions.

Porter concluded that they were all in this together and that progress had been made, but more needed to be done. He suggested that this could be accomplished with cooperation and consideration by the various neighborhoods for the good of the larger community,

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, **Cavanagh made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**


William G. Koons, Mayor


Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

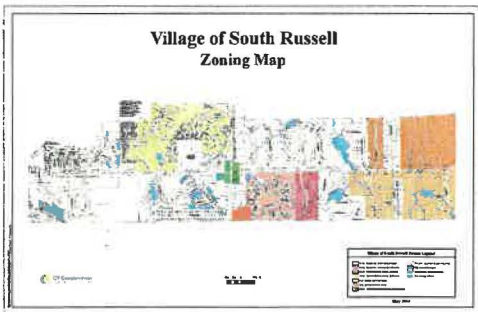
Prepared by Leslie Galicki

Storm water update
Tuesday, January 17th 7:00 p.m.
2023

Agenda

- Sun Ridge, Lake Louise, Paw Paw Lake
- Family Life Center, The Lantern, Chagrin Lakes
- Kensington Green, South Russell Village, Central Retention Basin, Parkland dam
- Red Barn, Bel Meadow, Manor Brook 319 grant, Fox Run, Sugar Bush, Southwyck, Chelsea Court
- SRV park wetland, Country Estates, Alderwood

Village of South Russell Zoning Map



Lake Louise Bridge



Family Life Center detention pond



2014 Bainbridge Family Life Center \$1,000



Lantern/Sheerbrook Drive
2019



Annandale Drive in Kensington Green



Kensington Green's Bullfrog pond



Village of South Russell
Zoning Map



Kensington Green's spillway



South Russell Village Hall 319 grant in 2020



Village Hall Site – Project Plan



Central Retention Basin



Chagrin Lakes dam between Royal Oak, Maple Springs and Parkland



Chagrin Lakes Dam

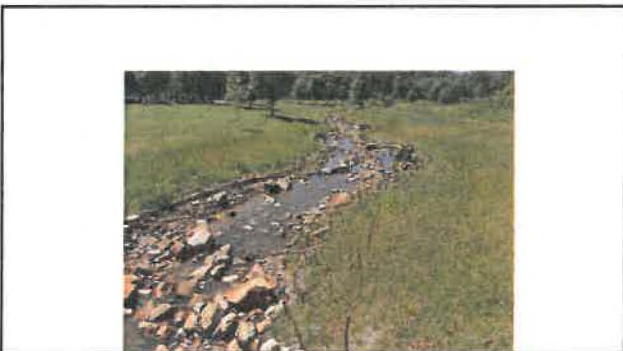


Manor Brook Drive stream 2021



Area of stream enhancement/flood plan





Fox Run



This sensor, the culvert under Bell near Gurney, records storm water flow.



Dimensions, approx. (LxWxH)
17" x 2.5" x 3.5"
17" x 2.5" x 7.75" (with bracket)



Sugar Bush culvert 2021



Alderwood basement 2020



2004 Southwyck/Chelsea Court, \$470,000



