

**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2021, 8:00 A.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

A. Meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Mayor Shari Cantor.

B. Attendees – Mayor Shari Cantor, Deputy Mayor Leon Davidoff, Councilor Lee Gold, Councilor Beth Kerrigan, Councilor Chris Williams, Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Engineer Greg Sommer, Acting Community Planning and Economic Development Director Duane Martin, Civil Engineer Julie Viera, Senior Project Manager Cynthia Baumann, and Vice President of CDM Smith Joseph Laliberte.

2. Business Items

A. Meeting Minutes July 21, 2021 – Councilor Gold moved to accept the July 21, 2021, minutes. Councilor Kerrigan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.

B. West Hartford Drainage Study (Phase 2/3) – Mr. Hart introduced the informational presentation regarding Phase 2 of the Drainage Study, which was uploaded and available on BoardDocs. This is still in the study stage. The next steps would be design and eventually implementation.

Mr. Martin stated Ms. Baumann was going to go through the presentation and provide an update on their second study, which will lead into how to move forward collectively with all of the drainage recommendations. Mr. Martin stated grants are still being pursued for potential funding of the project.

Ms. Baumann provided a brief recap of Phase 1 and the recommendation for culvert replacements along Trout Brook. She then proceeded to walk through Phase 2 of the Town of West Hartford Drainage System Study including existing conditions, recommendations, costs, a groundwater study and the next steps in the project. Phase 2 covers Areas 4, 5 and 6, which encompasses the areas of North Main Street, St. Joseph's Tributary and the East Branch of Trout Brook Drive. The Phase 2 study occurred from January to July 2021, with a draft report completed in July. The study is comprised of the field survey, modeling, evaluation of alternatives and recommendations. With regard to the existing conditions for Area 6, 15 drainage systems discharge to Trout Brook. The model used was a 10-year design storm, which is a storm that has a 10% chance of occurring in a given year. The model was validated with historical storm events and documented flooding, which were provided by the Engineering Department and Emergency Services. For the existing conditions of Area 4, there are 4 drainage systems, which all run in a northerly direction toward Trout Brook. In the past, there has been significant flooding along Brace Road, Brunswick Avenue, Whitman

and Keeney Avenues, as well as North Main Street near Trout Brook. Area 5, the St. Joseph's Tributary, has one huge system. In this area, there were numerous areas where the storm model showed flooding.

The other thing that was looked at for all three areas was private inflow removal. As in Phase 1, this focused on houses needing a connection for their private inflow so they could connect to the drainage system. Within the 3 areas of Phase 2, there were approximately 600 total buildings identified as private inflow disconnections. Those are buildings that need to be disconnected from the sewer and put into the drainage system, which is approximately 38% of all properties within the Phase 2 area. To disconnect the houses, a collector drainage system needs to be installed. The collector drainage system includes drainage extensions and collecting drains so the private homes could connect to a drainage system with their sump pumps and roof leaders.

Ms. Baumann briefly went over the recommendations for the Phase 2 area, which included drainage system improvements and collector drains. The drainage system for Phase 2 was broken out by priority into 3 tiers. Tier 1 is considered high priority and consists of areas with documented flooding and also modeled flooding during the 10-year design storm and historical events. Tier 2 is considered a moderate priority and consists of areas that modeled flooding with the 10-year design storm and historical events. Tier 3 is considered low priority and only modeled flooding during the 10-year design storm. There was no documented flooding or flooding during historical events. Ms. Baumann highlighted three areas; Arundel from Area 4, St. Joseph's Tributary in Area 5 and Lawler Road in Area 6. Lawler Road will require an additional 2500 feet of pipe, the St. Joseph's Tributary will require 9900 feet of additional pipe and Arundel will require 10,000 feet of additional pipe. The pipe size varies from 15-60 inches in the 3 areas. Slides 24, 25 and 26 of the presentation have the breakdown of pipe sizes and length by tier.

Ms. Baumann went over the costs for both Phase 1 and 2. Phase 1 (Areas 1, 2 and 3) conceptual design and construction costs for the drainage system are estimated to be \$44M with the conceptual design and construction costs for the collector drains estimated at just under \$14M. Phase 2 (Areas 4, 5 and 6) conceptual design and construction costs for the drainage system are broken out on Slide 29 for all 3 tiers and vary as there are 3 alternatives for Arundel Avenue but it has been determined that Alternative 3 will be the one used. Tier 1, Area 4 and the private II removal is not listed. The Phase 2 collector drains cost is estimated at \$15M. The Tier 1 Priority Projects for both Phase 1 and 2 and the culvert replacements along Trout Brook, Lindy Lane, Albany Avenue and UConn Pedestrian Crossing are broken out on Slide 34, including the cost breakdowns for Pipe Replacement, Collector Drains, Drain Extensions and Private Disconnects.

Ms. Baumann briefly went over the Groundwater Study conducted during Phase 1. There was a determination of the depth of groundwater and there was an issue with groundwater in Area 3. There were 85 houses in Area 3 with groundwater within 5 feet of the surface and an additional 90 houses with groundwater within 10 feet of the surface. Area 3 is an area that has been identified as a regionally low elevation point with high groundwater depths. There is a groundwater study currently underway to monitor the groundwater in Area 3 including

how the groundwater on the subsurface moves and whether it would be beneficial to implement a groundwater collection system to alleviate the groundwater issue in that area. The next steps include a public meeting in October regarding Phase 2 and the design of drainage systems for Tier 1 in Areas 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, as well as the culvert replacement designs for Trout Brook and UConn Pedestrian. In addition, we are continuing to look for grant and funding opportunities for the project and MDC coordination for the house inspections and collector drains.

Mr. Laliberte briefly touched on possible funding for the project, including different grants. There is Clean Water Funding available from DEEP. It is a 50% grant for CSOs (Combined Sewer Overflow). This is typically for projects within the City of Hartford but a case could be made that the flow from West Hartford goes into Hartford, which then goes to the Hartford plant. It is a combined CSO problem and MDC and West Hartford could join together and use delegations and if it could be classified as a CSO issue that is being solved, the best-case scenario would show it is eligible for the 50% grant. There are other grants out there as well; ARPA funding, which the Town is receiving, and FEMA grants. There is also the multitrillion-dollar infrastructure bill coming out. There are talks of 'earmarks' coming back and the best way to line up for those is to go through the State delegation and see if you can be on their priority to get some of the grant money when it comes out.

Mr. Martin briefly touched upon the timing to complete the design phase. Once there is funding and an agreement is made upon moving forward with the recommendations, it would be approximately 1½-2 years to go through a survey design permitting. Several of the first phase projects would be starting from the low end or working at a watercourse and would require permits from [inaudible 01:09:20] and possibly the State, especially if adding a new discharge into a watercourse. The first phase for those areas may take more time from a permitting standpoint. The idea of cutting up the project into phases has been entertained with doing the design and permitting all at once. Once the path has been set with respect to the phasing of the projects and the funding, it will take approximately 1½-2 years to get from the start of the design to starting construction. It would also be beneficial to use the Next Steps slide and create a schedule because there are a lot of concurrent activities. It is not a linear path. Those will need to be pinned down so everyone is on the same page and understands what the overall schedules are.

3. Communications

Nothing was reported.

4. Staff Reports

A. Engineering Report – Nothing was reported.

B. Town Manager Report – Nothing was reported.

5. Future Agenda Items

Nothing was reported.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

/axb