
TOWN OF CARRBORO



STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION – SUMMARY

Remote Meeting on June 10th, 2021, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

Commission Members		Candidates	Staff
John Cox (vice-chair, absent)	Jeanette O'Connor (chair)	Margot Lester	Randy Dodd
Robert Dickson	Michael Paul (absent)	Gordon Chadwick	Emily Cochran
Jacquelyn Gist (Council)	Lauren Joca (absent)		Heather Holley

Administrative Matters

Minutes from May were not approved as a quorum of members was not reached.

Homeowners Manual Outreach

Heather shared plans for promoting the Homeowner's Watershed and Stormwater Handbook, including web pages, outreach events, and development of additional materials. Staff will also be coordinating with other groups such as the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System, OWASA, and the Farmers Market for outreach and cooperation. Specific outreach plans may be found in the agenda packet for this meeting. Margot suggested that others re-share social media postings, and others reiterated that they would share as much as possible. Jeanette asked about additional signage at MLK Park. Jacquie suggested that we put signage up during the summer before flooding picks up in the fall; Heather stated that the Storm Ready information will be sent out in the next Town newsletter, which will "kick off" these outreach efforts.

Flood Resilience

Randy introduced the concept of flood resilience, referencing the staff memo that was distributed prior to the SWAC meeting, and presented information as a review of the RainReady project. Randy summarized existing conditions in Carrboro as they pertain to flooding, which can be attributed to rainfall/intensity, topography and soil, land use and development, infrastructure, and other factors. Natural climate and topography are enormously important drivers. Land use and development can be thought of in terms of older and more floodprone development, and newer development which is typically more resilient. Other factors include blockage of drainage or building/zoning violations. Randy showed the TOC GIS webpage and the regulatory floodplains Carrboro.

Randy discussed the program recommendations from the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), including outreach and education, and community partnerships components. Randy reiterated that every part of the program is part of a holistic framework and partnerships are key in order to move forward. CNT suggested there be three audiences for targeted outreach – homes in floodplain with extreme flooding (which may need to be elevated or relocated), homes adjacent to floodplain (which could benefit from green and grey infrastructure), and homes not near floodplain (who experience yard/non-structural flooding that could benefit from green infrastructure).

Randy presented a table discussing the severity of flood impacts to residential properties based on frequency (frequent, occasional and rare) and type of property impacts (finished living space, basement/outbuilding, landscaping). Other program recommendations from CNT covered policy and regulations, and financing and funding. CNT acknowledged limitations such as the public purpose doctrine and the limitation of the stormwater utility funding.

Finally, Randy presented the proposed timeframe for program implementation. Randy highlighted that over the summer, staff will be working to present a pilot program implementation plan as well as interdepartmental work group. Randy reiterated that staff have already undergone significant research to understand the pros and cons of program components and that we're spending time to maximize the potential for the success of any new program that is considered.

Jacque asked whether staff could help support neighbors to form collaborative groups. Staff discussed limitations with working on private property; Gordon stated that he would be willing to work within his neighborhood group to assist others. Staff suggested highlighting residents or groups that are utilizing resources to improve their stormwater issues. Jeanette asked what the role of SWAC would be as of now, which is to remain informed and provide input as necessary during development of the program. Tentative timeframe for presentation would be for early fall. Robert suggested that the resilience memo be made publicly available, which Jacque agreed with.

Concept Plan Review - 1307 West Main Street

This topic was postponed due to lack of quorum. Jeanette suggested meeting in July for the sole purpose of reviewing this concept plan.

Adjourn

The meeting was informally adjourned (due to lack of quorum) at 7:52 pm.