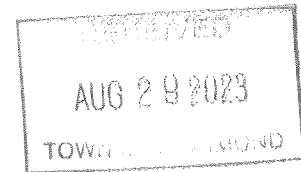


copy

August 28, 2023



Dear Selectboard Members:

Please find the enclosed petition. Upon collaboration with community members, additional information and video footage was obtained relative to the condition of Richmond's drainage system. An email has been forwarded to you with a link, and may be further forwarded as needed.

A copy of relevant email correspondence is enclosed and was also provided via email.

Sincerely,


Mary Ann DeBay and residents of Esplanade and Church Street

August 22, 2023

Dear Richmond Selectboard Members:

Please consider this petition from the citizens of both Esplanade and Church Street who continue to suffer the impact of the flooding of July 11, 2023 compounded by excessive rain and high water tables.

As previously discussed, the swale between the 2 streets remains flooded, and it is posing increasing health hazards including rats, mosquito infestations, and standing contaminated water with evidence of raw sewerage that has been present for over 6 weeks. These conditions should be considered intolerable in our community. We are strongly urging the selectboard to consider immediate mitigation of these conditions.

In addition to the immediate problem, planning for stormwater management is strongly urged. This is an area of expertise which has been discussed with knowledgeable community members who describe the storm water lines from Tilden and Baker Streets through Richmond Hardware to the river as suffering from obstructions and ill-repair. The flooding on our properties (among others) certainly suggests that the storm water that may have been diverted back to the Winooski River was not. Other considerations to improve stormwater management should certainly be seriously considered rather than telling us as property owners that it is our responsibility. An assessment and intervention by a stormwater engineer certainly seems warranted.

Overall, polluted stormwater is being discharged untreated into our properties, without a proper response other than kind words of sympathy. Please consider a plan of action to address this serious public health problem.

Mary Ann Donnelly - DeBay
520 Esplanade

Colin & Amie Curran
142 Church Street

Gail DeBay for DeBay 62 Esplanade

KATE MAZON
165 Church St.

Ann Smith / Derek Miodownik
12 ESPLANADE

Kara Weiss Kar
158 Church St.

Jessie L. Heiser 84 Esplanade

Brady Katzman - Rooks
123 Church St.

Lisa Littwin 88 Esplanade

John Hartsfield 65 Esplanade

Adam 45 Esplanade

John Hartsfield 45 Esplanade

please
TURN IN
PAGE

(- continued from first page)

Alex Charpentier ~~Alex~~
131 Church St

Margo Austin Margo At
139 Church Street

Kyle Austin Kyle At

139 Church Street

HARLAND D STOCKWELL JR
KAREN STOCKWELL

ROBERT STOCKWELL

149 Esplanade.

Amy Channell
139 Esplanade

BONNIE & RICHARD KATZMAN
123 CHURCH ST.

From: Cecilia Danks <Cecilia.Danks@uvm.edu>

Date: Mon, Aug 28, 2023 at 3:31 PM

Subject: RE: condition of the swale-letter to Richmond selectboard

To: Richard Katzman <rkatzman@uvm.edu>, Brady Katzman-Rooks <bradyrps@hotmail.com>, Kyle & Margo Austin <kyleandmargo@gmail.com>

Cc: Katherine Mason <katie.w.mason@gmail.com>, cc: Gretchen and Terry Bambrick <bambrickterry@yahoo.ca>, Gretchen Bambrick <gretchenbambrick@yahoo.com>, Joanna Berk <jhberkley@yahoo.com>, Paulasue Patterson <ppatterson@gmavt.net>, Zoie Rittling <zarittling@gmail.com>, Lauren Esserman <esserman@gmavt.net>, Mike Freebern <mikefreebern@gmail.com>, cfreebern@gmail.com <cfreebern@gmail.com>, Bonnie Katzman <bonniekatzman@gmail.com>, cecidanks@gmail.com <cecidanks@gmail.com>, Jo LaMarche <jolamarche@hotmail.com>, Wires, Kara <karawires@gmail.com>, Adam Benjamin <avbenjamin5883@gmail.com>, Colm Curran <colmcurran145@gmail.com>, Amie Deprince <ad2578@nyu.edu>, Kristin Novotny <novotnybiz@gmail.com>

Hi All,

Shortly before the flood, some town of Richmond crew members came looking for sewer access around the swale. They found and removed the brush from a sewer cover to the right of the path to Esplanade. As the water started going down after 7:30 pm on July 11th, I filmed this 40 sec video <https://photos.app.goo.gl/P4vhm6K2My3WoMC8A> showing the water bubbling up from around the sewer cover into the swale. The water level is below the lid now, but maybe there is damage or blockage underground contributing to the water in the swale. Seems worth looking into. Let me know if the video link does not work.

Cecilia

From: Colm Curran <colmcurran145@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Aug 28, 2023 at 4:06 PM

Subject: Re: condition of the swale-letter to Richmond selectboard

To: Richard Katzman <rkatzman@uvm.edu>

Cc: Brady Katzman-Rooks <bradyrps@hotmail.com>, Kyle & Margo Austin <kyleandmargo@gmail.com>, Katherine Mason <katie.w.mason@gmail.com>, cc: Gretchen and Terry Bambrick <bambrickterry@yahoo.ca>, Gretchen Bambrick <gretchenbambrick@yahoo.com>, Joanna Berk <jhberkley@yahoo.com>, Paulasue Patterson <ppatterson@gmavt.net>, Zoie Rittling <zarittling@gmail.com>, Lauren Esserman <esserman@gmavt.net>, Mike Freebern <mikefreebern@gmail.com>, cfreebern@gmail.com <cfreebern@gmail.com>, Bonnie Katzman <bonniekatzman@gmail.com>, cecidanks@gmail.com <cecidanks@gmail.com>, Cecilia Danks <Cecilia.Danks@uvm.edu>, Jo LaMarche <jolamarche@hotmail.com>, Wires, Kara <karawires@gmail.com>, Adam Benjamin <avbenjamin5883@gmail.com>, Amie Deprince <ad2578@nyu.edu>, Kristin Novotny <novotnybiz@gmail.com>

Hi all,

First off, I believe the Town is wrong to suggest this is not their problem. The swale forms part of their drainage network. The town's catch basin next to 92 Church St, collects all the runoff along Church St from Bridge St and discharges to the head of the swale between 121 Church St and 75 Church St. The rest of Church St (town owned road) runoff is collected in a swale which runs in front of 142 & 158 Church St before entering a culvert and discharging to the end of the swale behind 165 Church St.

The above occurs under normal rainfall, but when we have intense rainfall (which seems like every other day), water will also enter the swale via the new swale that was dug out behind 142 & 158 Church St. The catchment for that is Borden St, Railroad St and the lumber yards. I have also witnessed water flowing through the lumber yard from the railroad. Upon further investigation, the water was flowing across the railroad from a flooding manhole in the back of 167 W Main St. The catchment for that manhole is everything north of W Main St, i.e. Tilden Ave, Baker St, Millet St.

Furthermore, the town has a sanitary sewer manhole within the swale, which was overflowing during the flood in July, and potentially more during these other intense rainfall events. As a result, untreated sewage water will enter and rest in the swale until it drains away.

Ultimately, regardless of all the rain and water reaching the swale. This water should be able to drain away and it would seem that there must be something preventing this within the farm land where the swale leads. Again, as this swale forms part of the Town's stormwater network to which they discharge roadway runoff, they should have some duty of care to ensure this system is free from obstruction.

Happy to help with any discussions with the Town regarding this.
Colm

From: Richard Katzman <rkatzman@uvm.edu>

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 10:47 AM

To: Brady Katzman-Rooks <bradyrps@hotmail.com>; Kyle & Margo Austin <kyleandmargo@gmail.com>

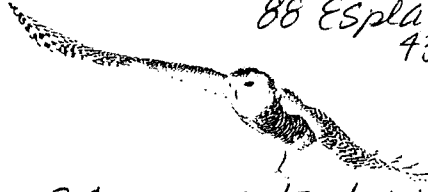
Cc: Katherine Mason <katie.w.mason@gmail.com>; cc: Gretchen and Terry Bambrick <bambrickterry@yahoo.ca>; Gretchen Bambrick <gretchenbambrick@yahoo.com>; Joanna Berk <jhberkley@yahoo.com>; Paulasue Patterson <ppatterson@gmavt.net>; Zoie Rittling <zarittling@gmail.com>; Lauren Esserman <esserman@gmavt.net>; Mike Freebern <mikelfreebern@gmail.com>; cfreebern@gmail.com; Bonnie Katzman <bonniekatzman@gmail.com>; cecidanks@gmail.com; Cecilia Danks <Cecilia.Danks@uvm.edu>; Jo LaMarche <jolamarche@hotmail.com>; Wires, Kara <karawires@gmail.com>; Adam Benjamin <avbenjamin5883@gmail.com>; Colm Curran <colmcurran145@gmail.com>; Amie Deprince <ad2578@nyu.edu>; Kristin Novotny

<novotnybiz@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: condition of the swale-letter to Richmond selectboard

I contacted the VDH environmental health division who indicated that although they report on findings from mosquito surveillance, the Agency of Agriculture actually does the field work. I've left a message for Terry Smith at Agriculture whom I hope is the right person to get the surveillance started. I spoke with Richmond health officer Eric Wood who was unaware of the swale situation, is now informed about it, and agreed with trying to arrange mosquito surveillance. -RK

LISA LITWIN
88 Esplanade
4346414



2023-24 property taxes

\$ 874.84 Quarterly

Now: \$1543.96 Quarterly

\$669.12 INCREASE Quarterly

and that is with a swamp!

(5' deep in some parts 4' mostly)

That is NOT draining nor can
we do anything about it!

Plus living in a flood zone
that was in the 500yr. plan -

Then 100yr plan and now
2x in 12 years! Not the town's
fault but I don't understand why
(and neighbors) must pay such
taxes in this dreadful setting.



I did discuss it with Lisa
and another gentleman
before the flood. It was bad

enough to ~~know~~ that I
couldn't repeat the decision
but I ask now who the
heck will by my house at
\$ 491,400 in this location now??

Perhaps folks don't realize
the situation on Esplanade ST.
most has been clean up
(by numerous very kind
volunteers - Bless them all)
but this will be the new
normal for us. yes, there
are others with more dire
needs but we on Esplanade
bought our homes in safer
times. it feels like a penalty
now. Come look at the
swamp and see if you'd like
that in your back yards with
~~the~~ new evaluations —
the

I don't mean to sound
disrespectful but this is
(will) affect some of us - and
others in the future, trying to live
here (financially). Thank you for
reading this note, Lisa