

Tuesday March 21, 2023

Third Meeting of the CCV Stormwater Committee

In attendance, either in person or via zoom: Shana Davis-Cook, Ellen Sands, William Atkins, Ruth Epstein, Nick Jacobs, Jeanne Asher, Peter Kaye, Maggie Marcus, Robert Goodwin, Josh Klein, Jim Petrila, and Marguerite Kingston.

Discussion of the Survey

Ms. Davis-Cook reported on the proposed plan for distributing the Committee's stormwater community survey, which was approved at the prior meeting, and notifying Village residents. The survey will be distributed online using the Google docs format. Following the meeting, Committee members would be sent a link and asked to complete the survey and provide comments within seven days. This phase will serve as a dry run and is designed to reveal any possible issues in the Google docs format and to show how the data comes through, so that remaining kinks can be worked out before the survey goes live to Village residents.

Village residents will also receive a hard copy of the survey by mail, followed by a postcard reminder notice, and notice will also be published in the Crier. There was a discussion about the timing and stages of the distribution and related notice to the community, inclusion of a QR code, the need for an authentication process, and the functionality of Google docs. Mr. Atkins volunteered to draft the content of the notice for the postcard and Crier and would circulate this to the Committee for comment.

The final plan agreed on is as follows.

Each Committee member is asked to complete the survey currently posted online for the dry run promptly, and send comments by close of business on Thursday March 23, 2023.

Based on the comments, the staff will finalize the content of the survey by Monday March 27, and post it on Google docs on or about March 31.

The survey will be available online for Village residents by March 31, will be mailed to Village residents the week of April 10. Responses will be due by May 5, giving residents more than four weeks to respond.

There will be a notice about the survey published in the April issue of the Crier, which goes to print the week of March 27 and will be mailed March 30.

A second notice will be included in a postcard, to be mailed to residents about the week of April 17.

Both the printed version of the survey and the post card will include a QR Code.

There was a discussion of other ways to communicate the importance of the survey and encourage residents to respond, including using the various existing email channels, the listserve, and door-to-door visits from Committee members. Ms. Davis-Cook suggested that Committee member reminders and encouragement on the listserve, which is a platform for residents to email each other,

is a better and more targeted means of spreading the word and encouraging a robust response, than using the Village email communications (which include recipients other than current Village residents).

Committee members generally agreed that in person communications by Committee members with their neighbors and other residents would be a helpful way to increase the response rate and learn more about residents' experiences. The Chair asked members to let the Committee know what blocks they would be covering.

Ms. Davis-Cook suggested that, following receipt and review of the responses, the Committee consider a separate meeting, in a town hall-type format, where the Committee could present the survey responses, answer questions, and/or generally have a dialogue with Village residents about the views expressed.

Update on Primrose Street

Ms. Sands described for the Committee the cooperative efforts of a group of residents in the unit block of Primrose Street, which can serve as a positive example of neighbors working together with Village support. As had been previously reported to the Committee, there is a longstanding issue of groundwater discharged on the North side of Primrose Street in the block between Connecticut Ave. and Brookville Rd., including house numbers 3-15. There is water consistently running down the gutter, whether or not it rains, and the source and history of the issue are not clear. Some of the residents in this location have worked out a plan and submitted it to the Village. The plan involves running individual pipes from the properties of those participating residents, directly into a storm drain connecting to an existing storm drain inlet close to Connecticut Avenue. The Village could provide support by removing and restoring the brick sidewalk for installation of the underground pipes below the frost line. Ms. Sands said this is the kind of collaborative effort that the Village has been encouraging, involving cooperation among residents with Village support. She noted that while residents are aware that the Committee might recommend remedial measures for situations like that at Primrose Street, this would take some time, and the Primrose residents are interested in a more near-term solution. Similar projects implemented by residents with cooperation from the Village have been implemented on Oxford Street, Nevada Avenue (impacted one property), Hesketh Street, and West Irving Street.

Update on Hesketh Street Storm Drain Project

Ms. Davis-Cook and Ms. Sands provided an update on the status of the Hesketh Street storm drain project discussed at the last meeting and described in the minutes of that meeting. The Village's consulting engineer is finalizing the bid documents for the project construction.

Inspection of the Drain Pipe Between Grafton and Oliver Streets

An inspection of the pipe between Oliver St. and Grafton St. and from Grafton St. to that same pipe were completed on March 8, 2023, by Montgomery County. Both of those pipes were estimated to be 24 inches in diameter and "in good repair". The Montgomery County crew collected video of the pipe, which will be provided to the Village staff. The crew also cleaned out two inlets at Grafton and Cedar Parkway and advised that they will be coming back to clean others. Perhaps

more importantly, it was reported that the Montgomery County crew would be returning to survey the entire easement length since they do not currently have it in their database. .

Committee members were requested to inform the Committee if they know of storm drains that are not currently on the map provided by staff.

Proposal for Buffer Area

Ms. Davis-Cook reported to the Committee on plans for the Belmont Avenue Extended (“Buffer”) area which is the greenspace separating the West side of the Village (running from Belmont Avenue at Park Street to Grove St.) from Friendship Heights. This area was established in 2002, and includes a brick path and substantial plantings. Since 2002, the tree canopy has grown, reducing the amount of sunlight received by the understory planting. As a result, the ground planting has not thrived and there has been erosion. At the April meeting of the Board of Managers, the Board will hear a presentation from a landscape and civil engineer proposing new planting in the area. This may be of interest to Committee members as it relates to stormwater management.

Committee Meeting Schedule

The Chair stated that next Committee meeting would be on April 18, and that generally meetings would occur at 9:00 am on the third Tuesday of each month, as that is a time generally open for meetings according to Village staff.

Survey Consultant

Ms. Davis-Cook asked the Committee if members would like to invite to the next meeting the organization that helped Somerset review and analyze the responses to their survey. The Board has set aside funds for the Committee to seek such assistance. The organization could explain the services it provides and answer any questions, after which the Committee could decide whether it wishes to retain them and what type of assistance would be useful. The Committee would then make a recommendation to the Board, which, if the recommendation is approved, engage the organization through a contract.

Committee members agreed that this information and dialogue session would be useful and asked Ms. Davis-Cook to arrange it.

Minutes of Feb. 21, 2023 meeting

Approval of the minutes of the Feb. 21 meeting would be considered at the next meeting, to give Committee members and the Village staff additional time to review.

Counsel Sign-off on Confidentiality Notice in Survey

Ms. Davis-Cook reported that, as discussed at the prior meeting, Village counsel has reviewed the notice to be included in the survey relating to confidentiality. Counsel has now provided feedback and signed off on the language, which staff will incorporate in the final version of the survey.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

- A. When sending documents or information related to the business of the Committee always include the email: chevychasesw@gmail.com
- B. Documents for the committee will be posted on Google Drive at:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tSx3QnRztcoRi4ExLpdGbw0rOcFB2gPT>