

Town of Cohasset

41 Highland Avenue

Cohasset, Ma

2013 Annual Flood Prone Area Survey

Prepared by:

Cohasset Storm Water Advisory Committee

Noel Collins, Chairman

Jim Fitzgerald, Secretary

Ed Wadsworth

Fran Collins

Bob Huey

The Stormwater Advisory Committee (‘ Committee’), shall

“Conduct an annual inventory of flood prone areas in Cohasset on behalf of the Selectmen and interested Town Committees as a supplement to the Flood Control Master Plan of 2009.”

(Excerpt changes for the Committee)

On December 11, 2013 the Committee convened in the Basement room of Town Hall., Present, were Jim Fitzgerald, Ed Wadsworth, Bob Huey, Fran Collins, and Noel Collins.

Notice of the meeting was posted with the Town Clerk, announced by the Selectmen and published in the Cohasset Mariner.

Treats Pond

Attending the meeting also were, Lucille Hornby and Charles Higgins, both of Atlantic Avenue Cohasset.

They advised the Committee that the Treat’s pond area remained a flooding problem for the surrounding neighborhood. Discussion with the attendees and the committee including past flooding patterns, and prospects for solutions. The flooding problems involving, Treats Pond are well known to the Committee and a matter of record with the Town of Cohasset.

Nothing of any consequence has changed the Treats Pond proclivity for flooding since this Committee first examined the situation several years ago, at its own inception. In 2010 when the

Committee first addressed the problem, the neighborhood had organized well enough to include the participation of the Army Corp of Engineers.

The Army Corp of Engineers (“ACOE”) had developed a plan for diverting storm water historically destined to Sandy Cove to Cohasset Harbor, at a cost of millions. At the time, there was no public support for such a plan. The Committee examined the strategy then and now and remains hopeful that the Treats Pond Neighborhood will find a solution in the near future.

There was no evidence presented to the Committee in 2012, or at its 2013 meeting that would suggest the Treats Pond Neighborhood was responsible for the flooding. In fact, it would appear the neighborhood, while subject to de minimus flooding historically, had seen an exponential increase in the last 10 + - years.

The Committee has previously suggested to the Selectmen that :

1. Where there is a pattern of flooding , and
2. Where the property subject to flooding does so through no fault of the affected property owners or users, then:
3. The Selectmen should examine the matter and consider using town resources to remedy the condition.

The Committee was recently refreshed with the addition of new members Ed Wadsworth, Fran Collins, and Bob Huey.

For the first time since the Committee was created, we are operating with a full complement. Ed Wadsworth has suggested two footnotes to this report;

FEMA FLOODS MAPS

The Committee notes that new F.I.R.M.'s (Flood Insurance Rate Maps, prepared by F.E.M.A.) for Cohasset became effective during 2012. These maps expanded the geographical scope of 100 year flood plains (areas that can be expected to flood at least once in any 100-year period), signifying an increase in areas deemed flood prone in Cohasset.

Projected Sea Level Rise

The best scientific thought today projects sea level rise (SLR) for the South Shore will be several feet by the year 2100. While reasonable minds may disagree over the precise degree of SLR, there is little doubt that Cohasset will inevitably see new flood prone areas in the years ahead.

Noel Collins, Chairman

_____ date _____

Jim Fitzgerald, Secretary

_____ date _____

Bob Huey

_____ date _____

Ed Wadsworth

_____ date _____

Fran Collin

_____ date _____