

Flood Commission Minutes Tuesday June 18, 2013

Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island

Majority leader Paul H. Archetto , Chair

Call Meeting To Order:

Present Members are: Nicholas Capobianco/ Brian Dupont/Minority Leader Mike Favicchio/Mike Behm/
Amy Sinyei/Kenneth Mason, Director of Public Works/Chairman Paul H. Archetto.

Absent members are: Council President John Lanni/Councilman Richard Santamaria/ Senator Frank Lombardi/Representative Joseph McNarama. (Noted that both Senator Lombardi and Rep. McNamara reason for their absence was due to the fact that they were in session working on the state budget).

A Motion was made by Mike Behm to accept the minutes of the last meeting and it was seconded by Brian Dupont. Passed all in favor.

Correspondence None:

Old Business None:

Public Hearing:

Mr Richard Martin of 72 Fletcher Ave.

Mr. Martin raised the question about Bond Money. He asked the Administration when the Bond Money will be released.

Public Hearings are closed:

In reference to the agenda:

Mr. Cordy gave the committee a status update about Amanda Court and Amanda Street.

Mr. Cordy spoke about home buyouts. Specifically 129 Amanda Court.

Mr. cordy explained The National Resources Conservation Services Grant money. Which are federal dollars (NRCS)

To obtain these federal dollars certain criteria must be met.

Some NRCS grants are used for Coastal flooding other grants are earmarked for certain projects.

Mr. Mike Behm asked Mr. Cordy about if the City of Cranston has a flood policy similar to the one that the town of Johnston has. If so, Cranston could model a policy based upon that outline.

Status Update for Fletcher Ave. :

Mr. Cordy discussed the plans and implementation of a Flood Wall and Flood Basins at the Fletcher Ave. Cite.

Mr. Cordy spoke about a storm water system network.

Mr. Cordy stated that plans have been completed around 9 months ago for such an event.

However, some delays and hurdles are D.E.M. permits and approvals.

Mr. Nickolas Capobianco addressed the question of having the city grant writer get involved in exploring the chance of any new federal grants available for such projects.

Chairman Archetto brought up a point about the use of NRCS money in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge a portion of The Pocasset River.

Councilman Favicchio (in reference to Mr. Martin's testimony much earlier) addressed the step by step process of all the many requirements the city must accomplish before grant money may be attained and released. Some delays and hurdles are standards and requirements made by D.E.M. or Coastal Resources, or The R.I. Rivers Council just to name a few.

Mr. Dupont brought up the fact about storm related drains. The importance of clearing and cleaning catch basins. Drainage of water to Fletcher Ave. from Atwood and Plainfield Pike.

Mr. Dupont advised the commission to address the improvement of Atwood Ave. drainage.

Mr. Nicholas Capobianco brought up the subject of grant money amounts.

Mr. Cordy responded by saying that it is difficult to cite a total amount since certain dollars could be earmarked for a specific project.

Some federal grant money is earmarked for a certain type of usage and cannot be comingled with other funded grants.

Mr. Capobianco asked if a portion of the federal grants could be used to purchase two large 60 inch drain pipes in diameter that would drain the runoff water into the Pocasset River at a much quicker pace.

Status update for Perkins Ave.

Mr. Cordy discussed a Flood Irrigation Grant .

Amy sinyei asked about The Flood Irrigation grant as it pertains to Perkins Ave. May some of the money be used for buyouts.

Mr. Cordy discussed Grant requests made by the city:

- 1) Sewer Pump Money
- 2) Storm Water Drain on Wilbur Ave.
- 3) HMGP Grant: If City should reapply it has a good chance of getting the grant.
- 4) Back flow preventions:

Mr. Cordy cited that the area consists of a new Cranston Print Works map to upper reaches of The Pocasset River to Randell St. to Reservoir Ave.

Mr. Cordy also mention the fact that The Rhode Island General Assembly has reinstated The Historic tax credits that will help the Cranston Print Works area.

Public Hearings for Non-Agenda Items:

- 1) Female resident asked about a purchase of a foreclosed house. Under bank ownership. If any application for FEMA money would still be pending if home was foreclosed on and now bank has transferred title to her.
Councilman Favicchio and Mr. Cordy at end of our meeting addressed her concerns.
- 2) Another female Cranston resident was a question pertaining to the installation of the Flood wall, Flood Basins/ and 60 inch drain pipes to their relationship to the Pocasset and St. Ann Cemetery. She was concerned about erosion and possible flouting of coffins down the Pocasset River. Mr. Mason responded by stating: He felt both cemeteries would be just fine under the plan of future improvement of drainage along Atwood Ave. and Fletcher Ave.

The committee established a time for the next flood committee meeting.
August 13, 2013 Cranston City Council Chambers

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Dupont, 2nd by Councilman Mike Favicchio
Passed all in favor.