

**New Road Ditch Drainage Review
February 21, 2014**

Attendees:

Jessica Watson – Sussex Conservation District
Tim Macmillan
Jim Henriksen
Judy Henriksen
Karen Fleck
Ed Fleck

1. Karen talked to Representative Smyk earlier in the week regarding the ditch
 - a. Nothing can be done because the ditch is tidal
 - b. If the pipes get fully clogged and no longer drain – contact Rep. Smyk
 - c. Possible strategy - We could characterize the already clogged pipes as a disaster waiting to happen, e.g. flooding New Road during the next nor'easter. It's in everyone's best interest for the state (DelDot) to take proactive, preventive measures now, rather than waiting.
2. Rep. Smyk called Jessica Watson and asked her to meet with Karen to review the New Road ditch.
3. Rep. Smyk also called DNREC and asked that Karen be contacted to review the problem
4. Lots of "trash" in the ditch
 - a. Karen picked up 5 bags of trash on March 24. Additional cleanup is needed.
5. Ditch does not appear to have any choke points.
6. Reviewed the pipes moving the water into Canary Creek
 - a. Pipes are at least 60% clogged now
 - b. Canary Creek water will flow into the ditch during high water. On both ends of the pipes, and water flow was visible; therefore, the pipes are currently draining. Even if the pipes were 100% clear, the water level in the ditch would not go down.
 - c. The standing water in the ditch cannot be eliminated because the water is part of tidal Canary Creek.
 - d. Looking at the pipes, the water level appeared to be the same height on both sides of the pipes therefore, it appears the pipes are draining
 - e. We could visibly see water moving from the ditch into the creek
7. The portion of the ditch by the outflow is considered wet lands
 - a. The entire ditch may be wetlands
8. Ideas were batted around of how to get the water out of the ditch
9. Best course of action is to keep the pipes clear
 - a. Remove large debris from the ditch periodically
10. Jessica is going to do some investigation regarding the New Road ditch
 - a. Who owns the ditch?
 - b. Why was the outflow created with pipes?
11. Sussex Conservation offers applying for financial help to correct stormwater drainage problems for half the cost, up to \$5,000

- a. Jessica will send the form
- b. Not sure what we can do since we cannot fix the drainage problem with the ditch because it is tidal and considered wetlands.

**New Road Drainage Ditch – Meeting with Solitude Lake
February 21, 2014**

Attendees:

Phil and Elizabeth Fields
Ed Fleck
Tim Macmillan
Jim Henriksen
Sabatino Maglione
John Phelps – Solitude Lake
Greg – Solitude Lake

1. Reviewed the drainage pipes from the end of the ditch into Canary Creek
2. Recapped meeting with Jessica (documented above)
3. Phragmite in the outflow is a problem
 - a. Will eventually cause a choke point
 - b. Phragmite in HOA wetlands is excessive
 - c. We need to keep the phragmite away from the inflow and outflow
4. John recommended a standard clearing
 - a. Remove green briars, trees in the highlands to be able to get equipment back to the drain pipes
 - i. Tree roots could be causing problems to the pipes
 - b. Clear the silt at the beginning and end of the pipes
 - c. May help the water flow better
 - d. In the end, this will not fix the ditch drainage problem
 - e. Ditch is tidal and considered wetlands
 - f. Cost to conduct standard clearing and some sediment removal
 - i. \$2,860 (charge for one full 8 hour day)
 - ii. Work estimated to take 6 hours. If 6-hour job could be piggybacked with another small project (not necessarily ours) on the same day, cost could be brought down to \$2,000. Scheduling would have to be at Solitude's convenience.
5. NOAA website will provide high water elevation
6. DNREC website will provide elevations
7. Keith Ruby – Landmark Engineering to help navigate Flood Maps website
8. If the HOA attempts to get government help for the New Road ditch drainage we should mention "In Kind Services" as part of the application
9. Scott Figurski - scott.figurski@state.de.us

- a. Can tell us who owns the New Road ditch
10. Jim H. brought up flood maps addresses and lot numbers do not correspond correctly

Brief meeting with Tim, Ed, Sabatino and Karen

1. Tim is going to see if we can secure a Roto Rooter service to see if the pipes are clear
2. Sabatino would like to see the green briars cleared to the drainage pipes and along the New Road ditch by his property
 - a. Sabatino is leaving for a month next week
 - b. Growing season begins in March/April
 - c. Follow up in October/November 2014 to see if we can secure volunteers for the clearing.