



Town of Winchester

Town Manager's Office
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Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2016

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMENTS

Docket Item B-1: Land Appraisal – Main Street

B - 2: District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Program –
Creation of Stormwater Utility

Supporting Documents:

B - 1: Map showing Town-owned parcels on Main Street

B - 2: Memo from Town Manager with attachment

Action Required:

B - 1:

B - 2:



Town of Winchester

Richard C. Howard,
Town Manager

Docket Item:
B - 2
January 25, 2016

Board of Selectmen
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marc D. Draisen, Executive Director, MAPC

FROM: Richard C. Howard, Town Manager

DATE: January 26, 2016

SUBJECT: DISTRICT LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (DLTA) PROGRAM

The Town of Winchester is pleased to submit a proposal for District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Program funding for assistance in establishing a local stormwater utility. I have attached a brief scope of work for your review.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal and I look forward to the possibility of working with you and your staff on this important project. If you have any questions or need further information to perform your evaluation please free to contact me directly or a member of my staff, Margaret White, Project Manager at mwhite@winchester.us.

Attachment

cc: Martin Pillsbury, Environmental Planning Director

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Program
Concept Scope
Creation of a Stormwater Utility
Winchester, Ma

The Town of Winchester is pursuing the establishment of a local Stormwater Utility to fund solutions to local flooding issues, improve operation and maintenance of the stormwater collection system and implement the anticipated requirements of EPA's MS4 Stormwater Permit. We are seeking funding assistance for the following tasks.

- Evaluate various Stormwater Utility alternatives
- Analyze town-wide impervious areas to inform the selection of a Stormwater Utility
- Evaluate rate structure options
- Estimate a planning level cost for system-wide stormwater needs
- Educate public boards and commissions regarding the need for additional stormwater funding

Completion of these objectives would help the Town meet two (2) of the Community Compact Best Practices - Comprehensive Water Resource Management and Financial Management (Long Range Planning and Forecasting & Capital Planning).

The Town of Winchester is plagued by numerous localized flooding areas that impact public safety, affect community recreation areas and cause substantial damage to public and private property. These are generally long standing issues that have been exacerbated by the effects of climate change. The increased frequency of higher intensity storms has pushed these projects to the forefront. The Town has begun studying some of these areas and advanced to the design phase in others. Unfortunately the high cost of construction to remedy the problems is beyond the capacity of existing funding mechanisms.

Specifically, flooding in the Wildwood Road area, and the estimated \$3,000,000 proposed solution, has spurred the Town's desire to evaluate implementation of a local stormwater utility. The proposed solution to the flooding includes a multi-faceted approach that will protect private property, upgrade aging stormwater infrastructure, and protect public recreation areas while improving water quality and increasing local groundwater recharge through a large below ground infiltration galley. These green infrastructure projects, which are a cornerstone of the proposed MS4 regulations, are the types of projects we hope to fund with a Stormwater Utility.

Due to the completion of several recent projects Winchester is well positioned to move forward with the evaluation. Recent projects include:

- An extensive town-wide stormwater mapping project, including outfall mapping. This will facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of future stormwater infrastructure and maintenance needs.

- A detailed analysis of the cost impacts from the proposed MS4 regulations. These provide a planning level assessment of the financial needs related to EPA's six (6) minimum control measures.
- Rough analysis of impervious area using available GIS data. This will assist in the evaluation of various rate structures that could be employed for the stormwater utility.

In general, Winchester envisions a project scope that evaluates future investment needs and explores the mechanisms available to fund them. Future investments will include capital projects to reduce flooding; smart operation and maintenance protocols to improve water quality in the Mystic River Watershed and make municipal operations more efficient; and compliance with future regulatory requirements.

The Winchester Board of Selectmen has voted approval to submit this proposal and supports the idea of investigating the process of creating a storm water utility. It is expected that the Managers Office will conduct Town-wide outreach efforts to explain the strategy of implementing the utility, emphasizing the need for the Town to comply with EPA's MS4 Stormwater Permit. It is expected that all relevant town Departments, Managers; Engineers, DPW; Planning and Assessors will collaborate and devote time to this project. Various Boards and Commission will be brought into the process as required along the way. The Town Manager will be the lead on this project and it is expected that we will complete this project and present the findings to Fall 2016 Town meeting.