

Stormwater Authority

In 1999, West Brookfield made an investment in stormwater management with a five-year plan and the creation of the Stormwater Management Committee. While some of the ideas were addressed or implemented over the years since the plan was developed, 2006 proved to be the most active and productive year yet.

We are pleased to report that the West Brookfield Stormwater By-Law (by-law) and the Stormwater budget of \$5,000 became reality at the Town Meeting last May. With the creation of the by-law and the budget, the Stormwater Authority, formerly the Stormwater Management Committee, will serve a dual role in preventing new stormwater issues and fixing existing ones. Since May, the Stormwater Authority (SWA) has adopted the regulations necessary to implement the new by-law. SWA, in conjunction with Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association (LWPA), has hired ESS, an environmental consulting group, to develop a plan and look for funding sources to address current runoff issues.

Insert "Treasurers Report"

*****Stormwater By-Law Summary*****

This by-law was created because runoff and discharge from stormwater outfalls are the single largest source responsible for water quality problems. Careful planning of new development will protect the quality and health of our streams, lakes, and drinking water supplies. The goal of the by-law is to protect the public health, safety, and environment by establishing requirements and procedures to manage stormwater runoff, promote groundwater recharge, and prevent water pollution from new development and redevelopment. These goals will be achieved by regulating land development activities to preserve healthy water resources, requiring that the amount and quality of runoff is equal to or better than pre-development conditions, establishing maintenance provisions to ensure proper and continuous functioning of treatment practices, and establishing an inspection process.

The by-law only applies to new and redevelopment or other activities that will result in increased stormwater runoff or pollutants from a parcel of land or that alters existing drainage. It is not retroactive and exempts most activities involving a single-family home. A Stormwater Management Permit will be required for subdivisions, commercial uses, multi-family dwellings, and houses built by a single developer (including family members) on contiguous lots under single ownership. Converting land use to an auto salvage yard, gas station, fleet storage yard, commercial parking lot will also require a Stormwater Management Permit (SWM permit).

To obtain a SWM permit, an applicant must submit: an application signed by all property owners, abutters list within 300', project description, Stormwater Management Plan signed and stamped by a Massachusetts licensed Professional Engineer, Operation and Maintenance Plan, payment of \$30 application fee, inspection and maintenance agreement, erosion and sediment control plan, and surety bond. Other fees to review the

plan for professional services of a registered engineer or consultant will be determined at the time of review and will be paid by the applicant.

SWA has 31 days to act on an application. The Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Appeals will also have approval authority to quicken the process for the applicant's benefit. When the permit is issued, it is valid for 1 year. There will be a series of construction inspections. Any violations will be subject to \$100/day fine.

Respectfully Submitted,
Members of the Stormwater Authority.