

TOWN OF GORHAM
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Steps that have been taken to address recent flooding concerns

Cleaning of roadside ditches- County and Town;

Some of the ditch cleaning that has occurred can be described as routine maintenance although a great amount of it has been done to remove sediment deposited by recent storms. Crews will continue this effort, however they have a long way to go before they can consider it finished.

The Town recently purchased a used hydro-seeder and we are starting to try to establish grass immediately after ditching to hopefully hold soil in place. So far this has seen limited results as storms have washed some of the material used away before it could take root.

Replacement or cleaning of culvert pipes- County and Town;

There is no accurate count of how many have been replaced, however most if not all of them have greater capacity than what they replaced, either because corrugated has been replaced by smooth bore pipe or an even larger pipe has been used. Again, there is more to do regarding this.

Filling and grading of washouts- County and Town;

The largest concern regarding washouts is in regards to safety, whether vehicular or pedestrian safety is in question. In some cases we have filled washouts as a temporary measure, knowing that we will have to remove the fill to perform a permanent repair.

Discussion with land owner farming near the intersection of County Road 11 and State Route 364.

Due to my discussions with the landowner, I have found that the ponds that had been removed were removed because they were breaking down. They had washouts tearing the banks away. They were not installed as retention ponds, so were not properly sited. In addition the banks were constructed of topsoil and had trees and bushes growing on the banks compromising their integrity. The landowner had already been working with Yates County Soil and Water to site and plan a true retention pond in a different location on the property. In addition, when he removed the hedgerows, it allowed him to run his rows along the slope instead of up and down it which greatly reduces the chance or degree of erosion.

Armoring of stream banks and rock check dams.

As with projects undertaken in the past, we are continuing with this effort along certain roads.

There are engineering studies that are being undertaken right now to identify possible retention pond sites as well as required capacities regarding them.

I have engaged in talks with a couple of land owners in regard to the possibility of purchase of land to install ponds or other erosion control devices.

All of this work has a cost associated with it. In some cases a very large amount of money is needed. Because of this I have been working with Senator Helmings office as well as Assemblyman Kolbs office to try to obtain funding for some of the larger projects. Nothing definitive yet however Assemblyman Kolb especially is confident that he can get us some help.

I have also been in contact with an individual that specializes in procuring funding for these types of projects from any source available. So far he has reported that my efforts with our state representatives as well as grant applications that we have already submitted through the Watershed Council are all that is available at the current time. Of course, I'll keep on top of this.

Our Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals already do a good job regarding their requirements for proper grading and siting of structures but I will see to it that they understand some of the issues that have arisen so that they will make sure to perform the amount of scrutiny needed to avoid drainage issues in the future.

As other efforts take place I will strive to keep the public informed.

Fred Lightfoote
Supervisor
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