



## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

November 30, 2010

### REPORT OF THE FLOOD FORUM SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maryann M. Heuston	Chair	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Vice Chair	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Stan Koty	DPW	Present	
Robert King	City Engineer	Present	
Robert May	OSPCD	Present	

- Discussion of effects of flooding in city neighborhoods and feedback from city Department Heads regarding steps the city is taking to address this issue.

The committee met to discuss the issue of flooding in the city and discussed whether underground hydrology contributes to the problem. There is no historical data on ground flooding in the city, but from this point on, data will be collected and maintained. The committee requested that Mr. King ascertain where streams and wetlands were located in the city and to identify “hot spots” and chronic areas prone to flooding. Mr. King was also asked to determine if the Richdale Avenue sewer(s) is connected to the MWRA network. Members inquired whether the city could create a list of properties that were affected by the recent flooding and if assistance, in terms of property valuation due to losses, could be provided. The city’s Water Department is working with an outside vendor to examine the condition of the sewers and is in the process of developing a plan to notify residents about flooding problems in the city. Mr. May spoke about the city’s exploration of separating storm water from sewer water with the MWRA. The committee requested that the city’s Water Superintendent provide the committee with information of the potential cost savings to residents by not having storm water run through the MWRA system.

Several residents spoke about the recent flooding and provided some examples of the losses experienced. Mr. Koty will send a communication to the MBTA requesting that debris along its rails be removed. Alderman Desmond requested the City keep a list of names and addresses of residents who have suffered losses and damage to property during flooding events.

The Committee also heard from members of Somerville Climate Action and discussed initiatives taken by other cities to mitigate storm water run off. Chairman Heuston communicated that these initiatives are also in discussion in the Parks and Open Space Committee.