



Town of Ashland , Stormwater Advisory Committee

Stormwater Advisory Committee DRAFT Minutes March 3, 2026, Meeting Location: Virtual meeting on Google Meet

Members Present: Jeanne Walker, Robert St. Germain, Jill Vernes, Elizabeth Byrnes, Becca Solomon (ex-officio), Sofia Chrisafideis (ex-officio), Claudia Bennett (guest, Select Board Member).

Members Absent: Preethi Sreeraj

Call to order at 6:32 pm.

Recording started at 6:35 pm.

Review of Minutes.

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of February 3, 2026.
The minutes were approved as amended on a 4-0-0 vote.

New MS4 Permit updates.

No new information has been received on the new MS4 Permit.

Status report on YTD stormwater activities and monthly reporting.

Sofia Chrisafideis, Conservation and Stormwater Assistant, presented current actions for stormwater management in Ashland. The Stormwater Monthly Updates tracking sheet is available in read-only access [HERE](#).

Catchbasins have been identified for repairs, but those repairs have not yet been scheduled due to continued snow cover. There is some contractor budget remaining, which could be used for cleaning additional 429 catchbasins (out of 2400). Cleaning additional catchbasins would also provide an opportunity to evaluate catchbasin depths.

Catchment investigations will be initiated in the spring, once the snow has melted.

Status of Stormwater operational planning.

Discussed that there may be reorganization of stormwater responsibilities among town. No further details are available at this time.

Fees Database Audit

Liz will work with DPW and the town's accounting office to review the storm water fees recordkeeping.

Discussion of budget, fees, and Select Board presentation.



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The committee discussed if it makes sense to request a storm water rate increase of \$5 (currently \$8.35 per quarter for residential properties).

A motion was made to recommend a storm water fee increase of \$5 per quarter for residential properties, with a commensurate increase of the commercial rate, which is based on impervious surface area.

Motion passed 4-0-0.

Budget votes for FY2027 will occur in May 2026. The storm water enterprise fund is managed by the DPW and appears in the town budget to be presented and voted on at a town meeting. A storm water revolving fund is managed by the Conservation Commission, outside of the regular budget.

Claudia agreed that it would be helpful for the committee to present to the Select Board prior to the May 2026 town meeting.

The committee discussed the draft presentation for meeting with the Select Board. Further discussion on the presentation will occur at the next committee meeting.

Public education and outreach.

- Earth Day Schedule. Sunday, April 26. Rain date: May 3. 12-3pm. 11am set up. Corner Spot.
 - o Becca, Rob, Liz, and Jeanne are planning to attend. Jill is maybe.
 - o Green Up Ashland event is scheduled for May 2, 2026. This trash removal event also helps storm water quality.
- Farmers Market Schedule. Special days have not yet been scheduled. Jeanne will try to schedule SWAC for September 19 or 26.
- Messaging schedule.
 - o Clara Mott, Ashland's new communications coordinator, will help with creating and posting new Storm Water ads.
 - o Becca has mapped out a communications plan within the RIPPLE program.
- AHS environmental club efforts.
 - o Catch basin painting – Was approved by the School Committee but could not get that scheduled before the weather got too cold. Planning on completing the catch basin painting in the spring.
 - o The club collected surface water at the Ashland Reservoir on November 11.
- Stormwater ads.
 - o Ads have run in the local Town Pages, which is distributed to about 6000 addresses.
- School programs.
 - o Jill and Becca will be participating in the Mindess School Science Symposium on Friday, May 29.
- Engineers Without Borders.
 - o The Connecticut chapter is coordinating with a chapter at student WPI and they are interested in helping Ashland with storm water projects. Becca and Jill met with the WPI engineering students and discussed getting their help with painting stormwater catch basin stencils,



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tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 11. Becca, Rob, Jeanne, and Jill are planning to attend.

Next Meeting.

The committee plans to meet next Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:30pm.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed on a 4-0-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

DRAFT