

Wreck Pond Homeowners Alliance

WPHA NEWS BULLETIN (June 2012)

Dear Flood Zone Residents:

Since last year's flood, a number of solutions have been proposed to mitigate future Wreck Pond flood damage within the south end neighborhoods of Spring Lake as a result of extensive discussions and

meetings. The volunteer committee of the WPHA (comprised of local residents within the Flood Impact area) has met with Spring Lake Boro Officials, the Wreck Pond Watershed Commission, representatives from the NJDEP, Army Corps of Engineers, Monmouth County and both Federal and State Legislative leadership. WPHA efforts have focused on the development of a necessary ACTION PLAN which would guide the implementation of various attainable short term projects as well as identify more ambitious, but necessary, regional solutions.

There is no simple nor single solution to our flood concerns. However, collectively the implementation of the various projects and remediation work would substantially reduce the risk of future flooding and the accompanying environmental hazards.

Mayor Jennifer Naughton, Boro Administrator Bryan Dempsey, and Peter Avakian, Consulting Engineer have identified various action items including the coordination of incremental dredging with the County, introduction of new pumps and possible implementation of a land berm surrounding Wreck Pond, as well as other actions. The WPHA has encouraged them to remain focused on these and other preventative flood related interventions as suggested by the impacted residents.

Mark Alexander Pavliv, WPHA
415 Ocean Road, Spring Lake, NJ 07762

Email: mp77aia@aol.com Telephone 732-776-8777 (Office)

MEETING: We plan to have an Informational "Summit" in the near future with Boro Officials and ALL flood zone residents on the status of the various action items. A Flyer is being distributed to the Flood Zone homes.

Long Term Actions:

CONTROL WATERSHED RUNOFF - HIGH IMPACT -- Capture or delay water runoff from surrounding towns before it adds to the flooding of Wreck Pond. This solution requires the cooperation of the surrounding towns, the County, and the State. Ridgewood Road and Keller's Pond would be helpful in delaying the flow of rain water into WP. There is no momentum currently to move these projects forward. Possibly some work to be done to restore functionality of existing "catch basins" which will be marginally helpful. The pond on the west side of Hwy #71 was recently done by the County. Since a large portion of the water coming into Wreck Pond during storm events is from the surrounding watershed, the delay of water runoff needs to be a priority.

REMOVE THE PIPE - Consider removal of The Outlet Pipe and restore the tidal exchange to "pre-pipe levels". This is the ten year plus plan that needs to go through a number of agencies for feasibility, funding, implementation, etc.. Before this is done, pollution must be substantially eliminated in the pond from water fowl, phosphorous, human waste, leaky sewer pipes etc., and the pond needs to be dredged.

Short Term Actions:

PUMPS - MODERATE IMPACT -- Install two pumps and dredge the East end of WP. This seems to be on track for a December, 2012 completion. FEMA funding of some \$700k is in place. County has committed to complete the dredging of Wreck Pond east of 1st Avenue as part of the pumps installation. Required permitting is yet to be completed. Kudos to the Spring Lake Officials for securing the necessary funding commitment.

FLOOD GATE - MODERATE IMPACT -- Install a Gate on the existing outflow pipe to prevent tidal inflow of ocean water when storm conditions are forecast. Gate would open for outgoing tide. This sounds like a simple, common sense solution. Need an engineering design and cost estimate.

NATURAL BERM - MODERATE IMPACT -- Spring Lake has been willing to fund up to \$1 million and

build a natural berm around the pond of approximately 2 feet that would retain additional millions of gallons of water in wreck Pond. This will require the cooperation of SLH to extend the berm. The berm will demonstrate that SL is willing to spend tax dollars to help solve a significant problem for the South end residents of Spring Lake.

STORM PIPE- MODERATE IMPACT. Need to develop a near term action plan to redirect storm water during high risk periods away from outflow pipe at Second and Ocean which flows into WP.

CONCLUSION- None of these short term solutions will by themselves eliminate all flooding risk, but the more steps we do, the more protection residents have. These steps are also a pollution protection measure as the storm water in the pond during heavy rains is 50X more contaminated than otherwise due to human waste. We do not want this water in our homes again. These steps require funding and the continued and aggressive action of the Town Management, DEP , Residents and other Agencies.