

A Statement from the Town Supervisor regarding the Storm Water Management Committee:

It has never been and will never be the Board's practice or intent to act in secrecy or preclude the public from any matter concerning the administration of Town business or the expenditure of public funds. The Town Board was elected to serve the residents of New Hartford and the individual Board members have dedicated themselves to that purpose. The Board has been working diligently to resolve difficult and long neglected problems, not the least of which is storm water management.

I know that this Board believes that involving the public in the mechanics of governing and including them in the process of resolving problems that touch their lives and impact their pocketbooks is a necessary component of successful administration of Town business. When the \$2 Million storm water bond was approved by the voters, the Board went to great lengths to put together a committee comprised of Town Staff, Town residents and local experts to prioritize areas with storm water issues and making recommendations to the Board. The Committee members are your Highway Superintendent Cleveland, Town Engineer Meagher, Town Planner Schwenzfeier, Planning Board Chairman Hans Arnold, JoAnne Faulkner from Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District and residents Doug Peterson, Ed DeSanctic, Ken Lowell, Lis DiGironimo and Frank Montecalvo. Councilman Payne and Councilman Reynolds are Board Liaisons. With this diverse cross-section of members, it is believed that most, if not all interests are adequately represented.

In recent weeks, the Committee traveled via bus tour to various areas impacted by storm water runoff. They have also met with storm water management experts. The Committee is still evaluating the individual situations. Status reports are provided to the Town Board at its regularly scheduled Town Board meetings by Committee Chairman Roger Cleveland. When the Committee's evaluation is complete and they are ready to make recommendations on how best to proceed with the work and the expenditure of public funds, a presentation will be made to the Board. At that point, the Town Board will schedule the matter for public presentation to inform the residents of the Committee's findings, answer questions, and solicit public comment. All will be completed before any final decisions are made by the Board.

A time and place for public involvement will always be provided and never overlooked in the administration of Town business.

Earle C. Reed
New Hartford Town Supervisor