

Notes on Meadowview drainage issues prepared by Clerk Rosalind Gausman to show the history of the subdivision and drainage problems. March 2006

The plat was approved in 1954 before land use planning. The plat includes a low wet area through the middle of the subdivision which is at an elevation insufficient to properly drain the area. Under today's standards, this plat never would have been approved in this location.

Several homes in the area have problems of water in their basements and have installed sump pumps that run constantly.

Septic systems failed due to the elevation to ground water and the area was added to the Madison Sewer District in 1973.

In 1988 the town acquired easements in the lowest area between Meadowview Road and Nora Lane and constructed a drainage ditch to help alleviate the problem of standing water and lack of drainage. That ditch provided some relief for normal rain events, but it was not effective for heavy rains or rainfalls lasting long periods. Also at that time the ditch along the south side of Meadowview Road was deepened.

In 2000 twenty-three properties in Meadowview experienced flooding, and six of them reported property damage due to the flooding. Pictures of the flooded area were included in the June 12, 2000 letter to Fitchburg. The town's engineer, Town & Country Engineering Inc. evaluated the conditions and made recommendations to the town in letter dated June 5, 2000 (attached).

In May of 2001 the town engineer recommended (letter attached) a study of the area be done to assess the hydrologic conditions which resulted in the flooding and investigate alternative approaches to alleviate the severity and or frequency of the flooding. We contracted with Earth Tech to do the study and assessment. Their report is attached.

The town engineer recommended we clean out and straighten an existing ditch from Nora Lane to the drainage ditch on county owned property. The US Army Corps of Engineers and the Wisconsin DNR reviewed the proposed solution and issued the necessary permits. Both agencies are very familiar with the history of flooding in this area.

In 2002 the town purchased additional easements between Nora Lane and the drainage ditch on the county property to the south east of Meadowview.

In the winter of 2003-04 the town reconstructed and cleaned out a drainage ditch to the south to help speed up the exit of water in a rain event. This improved drainage ditch to the south will help speed up the surface water exit from the area but it will not prevent the flooding during heavy or prolonged rainfalls.