

August 6, 2012

Town of Longmeadow, Longmeadow Select Board

Paul P. Santaniello, Mark P. Gold, Mark Barowsky, Marie Angelides, Richard Foster

Dear Select Board:

On Saturday July 28, 2012, our home at 54 Brookwood Drive, Longmeadow, MA was flooded for the third time since 2005. All floods were a result of the four storm drains adjacent to our home backing up and causing water to enter our two garages, our laundry room and our finished basement family room. There is a storm drain on either side of our driveway and two directly across the street from our driveway. The flood in 2005 knocked out the bottom panels of our two garage doors and we had over 2 feet of water enter the garage and the lower level of our home. The fire department was summoned and said there was nothing they could do. We hired Prospect Builders to clean up the damage and the whole flood cost us \$5000+ out of pocket. In 2007, we had a similar occurrence and performed the cleanup ourselves. At that time, the Town Engineer was contacted by us and a neighbor who also had water damage. Work was performed on the street, not near our home, and we were told that the problem was rectified. On Saturday July 28, 2012, we had a third flood and water again reached over two feet in our garage and entered our home again. We are providing photos of the flood, water lines on our property and neighbor's property along with photos showing the storm drain backup that occurred yesterday on August 5, 2012. We have constructed a barrier of plywood nailed to the front of our home along with plastic and sandbags to prevent water from again entering our home. We are no longer able to use our garage or enter our home from the garage and we are parking our three cars on the lawn.

On Monday July 30<sup>th</sup>, we met with Yem Lipp, the Town of Longmeadow Engineer. We met with him again on Wednesday August 1, 2012 along with the Town of Longmeadow Building Inspector Paul Healey, Pro-Tech Waterproofing Specialist Ron Gilpatrick and Al Beaulieu of Beaulieu and Sons Home Improvement. The storm drain covers were lifted, drain lines measured and it is felt by all parties that the storm drains are not adequate to handle the amount of water occurring during sudden storms. Our house was built in 1967 and given a building permit by the Town of Longmeadow. Our neighbor across the street, Albert Newman, was the original owner of the first house built on the street. He has stated to us that this problem never occurred to past homeowners. We have owned this house since 1996. We have been asked about any new construction in the area that may have contributed to the problem. The Wolf Swamp School put on a large addition. We would like to know if the rain from the flat roof of this school addition is impacting the amount of water that is now flowing into our street storm drain lines and into our home.

We understand that the Town Select Board is responsible for allocating the funds for projects for repairs and renovations for the Town of Longmeadow. We are appealing to you, the Board, to rectify this on-going problem immediately. It is causing us mental and physical stress and anguish as well as unnecessary financial burden. We feel that as Longmeadow tax-paying citizens, the Town should come to our aid and not place the overwhelming burden on us to fix a Longmeadow town problem.

Respectfully yours,



Jerry and Jacqueline Wise

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