

Street Committee Meeting  
Monday October 7, 2019  
5:15 p.m. City Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

5A.1 Driveway Licensing of Huria Asphalt & Stone - Contractor's license currently not issued to do work at 13/17 Matilda Dr.

5A.2 Catch Basin Sump Concern-96 East Road

Documents:

[STORM DRAIN ISSUE.PDF](#)

5A.3 Shrub Road- Pedestrian Accessibility

Signature

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Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

9/29/19

To:

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, City of Bristol, [mayorsoffice@bristolct.gov](mailto:mayorsoffice@bristolct.gov)  
City Council District 2

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This email is a follow up to a conversation I had a couple of weeks ago. I was so upset at the time that I couldn't write this then, but I wanted to follow up now especially with all the new reports recently.

I had a lengthy conversation with Nancy Levesque in the engineering area for the public works department. My beef is not with her personally, because I think her hands are tied and she is limited by current process and policy, but that does not make my situation any better so I am going to do all I can to bring this to the attention of everyone that I can. I am starting with my city officials.

Let me provide some background:

About 2-3 years ago they were replacing the tops of the storm drains on our street for all the storm drains except the one in front of our house. This was pre-work for paving that was going to be taking place. At that time I didn't realize our part of the street was not being repaved and I was concerned that when they went to repave they would notice one storm drain top wasn't done and would attempt to do it after the paving was done creating an eye soar and an area that would promote advanced decay in the future.. I contacted public works to advise that a storm drain was missed. To their credit they responded right away. They brought a crew out but instead of replacing the top of the storm drain they dug up everything and replaced the full drain in its entirety.

We contacted public works again shortly after because we weren't sure that it was hooked up properly because we saw some flooding in the yard and we also saw excess water collecting in the storm drain itself. Based on conversations with our neighbor I understand he made some calls at that time as well. We never got a response to our inquiry and as life tends to get in the way, we got distracted and we put off following up. I think we determined that flooding in the yard was due to old pipes that originally went from the homes to the drain that are no longer accommodated so we will have to live with that issue but the storm drain collecting excess water is an ongoing issue of major concern.

Because the storm drain is so deep and the pipes are so high there is a constant state of full water in the drain and during the summer especially it is teeming with living creatures, mainly

bugs and larvae etc. It is a dangerous breeding ground right by our front yard. Although it is by our yard it impacts the entire neighborhood. I looked at all the other storm drains around us and they are not experiencing this issue. I think that is because they didn't have the full drain replaced, just the top. The storm drain system design in our area was based on an old design that works fine for the existing storm drains but not for the new ones.

Citizens are told all the time to monitor are yards of standing water to help keep mosquitoes at bay It is a concern not only because of the nuisance factor of bugs but the health risk associated with them. As I am sure you are aware of the massive concerns with EEE this year, Bristol has even altered events and sent warnings to help protect its citizens. Of course there are other mosquito borne illnesses like west Nile and probably many others that I don't know about myself, but EEE of course is the biggest concern presently. And with climate change happening this issues is only going to get worse going forward.

When we realized that paving was going to be happening again, this time impacting our part of the street, we reached out to public works again right away to try to resolve the issue with the storm drain again to avoid a problem with repairs happening after the paving creating an area that would erode quicker than the rest of the pavement. This was on 7/29/19. Someone came out a few days later. We were in the yard and looked at it with him. The drain was full of water and when a flashlight was shown on the area it was infested with all kinds of swimming organisms. He had the drain vacuumed and after looking at it he agreed there was in issue, he indicated a work order would be submitted to rebuild the drain, and marked the drain with paint and moved on.

Since then we have heard nothing. When we saw paving activity start we reached out again with no response. Then I reached out again when I saw them start putting down the new pavement. This time I got a response asking me to call Nancy Levesque in engineering. When I called Nancy she informed me that the inspector advised her that day that the drain was properly designed and working as intended. I made issue with that and she explained the need for the water to accumulate as it does to allow sediment to settle in the basin etc. Although I understand that rational helps prevent clogs in the storm drains I don't feel that out ways the public health risk that it presents. She indicated that the standing water is flushed out by the next storm and there shouldn't be an organism issue because of that. That may be the rational but I can assure you that that is not the case. I don't know if the drain is so high that each storm doesn't flush the drain fully or we don't get enough storms to drain it often enough but we have a serious problem here and I felt that Nancy didn't really understand the severity of the issue and/or felt there was nothing she could do about it because "this is the way it is done"

I am here to say. I don't really care if "this is the way that it is done" this is an issue and it may get me nowhere but I am going to take this issue wherever I can, no matter how futile that might be, to try to get my voice heard. Not only am I concerned about myself, and my husband who has an autoimmune disease which requires chemo treatments that makes him more susceptible to disease and illnesses, but also for everyone in the area of this drain and any other drain that

this is happening to. Our health is more important than drains not getting clogged as often or a “policy” that might have been rational at one time but isn’t now. Maybe this is a problem because we are retrofitting new into old and there is an overall design flaw, but as a 20 year resident of the town of Bristol I have to speak out when I see something wrong. Especially when it is putting my health at risk.

I would like to understand:

- Why Public Health is not taking the front seat over more financial/practical concerns like not having to clean drains as often.
- Why a public works official told my husband and myself that this was a problem and a work order was going to be submitted right away but then Nancy is told everything is fine.
- And why Nancy can’t tell me who came out to investigate this and either lied to us or is lying to her. There should be a record.

I have always been proud to be a resident of the City of Bristol. I always felt that they cared about its residents. I hope that someone cares enough to help us now. I want to be able to enjoy the outside because Bristol feels it is fine to put breeding ground for potential disease in my front yard. There has to be something that can be done about this.

I am reaching out to my city officials to start but if that goes nowhere I will reach out to the state and the department of public health or anyone else I can think of that might listen. Maybe nobody will care, but they should. This is going to be a growing problem that if not addressed is going to cause serious problems down the road.

Please reach out to me or my husband if you have any questions or if I can help in any way.

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