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**September 10, 2021**

**Statement on Summer Meadow stream channels and recovery in Plumstead Township  
Storm "Ida" remnant rainfall**

On Friday, September 10, 2021, the storm water stream channels in Summer Meadow were inspected by this office along with the township engineer. All areas are in township owned open space.

1. The westernmost stream corridor (where the previous streambank stabilization projects were completed) has three areas of damage to the streambank lined embankments. Basically, some of the sandbags have been displaced from the base of the lined embankment, resulting in undermining of the embankment. Some years ago, a prior storm also damaged a small section of the sandbag wall, which was repaired by Public Works. We are considering that the current damage may be repaired in a similar fashion, which will involve reinforcement of the sandbag foundation with additional sandbags (filled with mortar mix to establish a concrete base under the wall) to resist further storm events. Placement of rock may also be needed to insulate the base of the sandbag wall from undercutting by fast moving runoff in the stream. Due to the extent of the required repairs and the current workload of the Public Works Department, it was suggested that if this work is to be completed "in-house", it would have to be done in sections, starting from the upstream area, and moving downstream, and prioritizing the locations that were subject of resident concerns first. Some limited vegetation removals (trimming of undergrowth, mainly) would be required so that we can access each area requiring repair from the surrounding mowed open space area.

2. The easternmost stream corridor was inspected, as the Township received complaints regarding runoff overtopping the banks due to manmade obstructions in the stream channel. No evidence of manmade obstructions was observed; however, there is a section of the stream channel that meanders around a tree causing rock deposits that are diverting runoff toward properties to the west of the stream. This area may need to be addressed to remove the rock deposits to enable the stream to run in a more direct way so that runoff does not divert as it does now. There are several other locations that may also warrant streambank stabilization like what was completed on the other stream channel. This type of work (realigning the channel and streambank stabilization) will also require permits from PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Bucks County Conservation District. A few trees (undermined by the erosion) may also require removal. Access to this stream channel from surrounding open space areas is limited, which will make it more difficult to bring in equipment from public roads without encroaching on private properties.

This will be a significant undertaking as we evaluate the need for the proper permits through state agencies and evaluate how best to approach the issues at hand and begin to make repairs.

As we consider this event, we again appreciate your patience as we prioritize and process through after storm management and repairs. We will focus on public safety – life and property.