

John R. Dixon
331 Fields Hill Road. P. O. Box 710
Conway, MA. 01341
Email jackdixon1930@gmail.com web: www.johndixon.com

January 26, 2024

Mr. Philip Kantor, Chair
Conway Selectboard
P. O. 240
Conway, MA 01341

Dear Mr. Kantor:

Good job getting the 1.25 million from the State for Conway. Thanks for your capable and persistent effort.

On another subject, in a newspaper article, you are quoted as saying that you “expect the town to work on stormwater management infrastructure to alleviate future flooding.” **Yes!**

I used to be an engineer (still think like one), and live on a road washed away by stormwater, so I have two good reasons for being interested in stormwater management. The town surely needs to work on this issue for there will very likely be devastating rainstorms again in the future. We cannot afford to be unprepared again.

An anecdote: My former neighbor, Fred Parker (now deceased) was aware of this problem decades ago. And Fred was country-smart; he once told me that one has to “go out in the rain and watch where the water goes.” He did that and then built two ponds beside Field Hill Road in an attempt to slow the flow of water down the hill in a storm. The ponds are still there, sort of, but are no longer being used. They are probably the right idea, but too small.

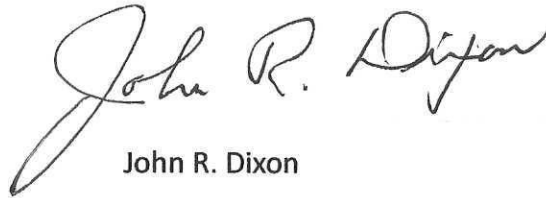
I Googled ‘stormwater management’ in several variations and found there is a whole new sub-field of engineering devoted to the subject. The Town very badly needs professional help with this problem. For example, it will require real engineering knowledge and smart computer programs to answer such questions as “If it rains an inch an hour in Conway for six hours, how much water will flow down Field Hill (or some other) road?” Or, “How large should Fred Parker’s ponds have been to prevent Field Hill from washing away?” Or, “How much water can a given road handle before washing away?” Depends, of course, on how the road is designed and maintained. I expect such questions can be modelled and answered by computer.

On the web, in addition to a number of engineering/consulting firms, I found an organization that offers on-line training in stormwater management subjects. (StormwaterONE.com). I did no

'research' on this or on any firm; my message is simply that there is most probably help out there that Conway could use. Going to cost some money, of course.

I repeat: Conway needs professional engineering help with stormwater management (before a big storm happens again), and we need well-informed Conway people to deal with the pros. This is just too technical and critical a subject to be left to non-professionals.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Dixon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John R. Dixon