

**TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD**  
**Storm Water Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Town Hall**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026 • 6:30 PM**

**Call to Order**

The Storm Water Committee convened at Town Hall at 6:30 PM.

**Members Present**

Town Highway Superintendent, Richard Sherman  
Ward 1 Councilman, Vincent Pristera  
Town Supervisor, James Messa  
Confidential Secretary, Christine Martin  
Ad Hoc Engineering Advisor, Bill Bentley  
Gary Bullis, Ward 1 Committee Member  
David Maier, Ward 1 Committee Member  
Stewart Kramer, Ward 1 Committee Member  
Travis Thibodeaux, Ward 3 Committee Member

**Discussion Items**

**1. Ditching, Catch Basin, and Culvert Cleaning**

The Committee discussed ongoing storm water maintenance efforts, including ditching, catch basin cleaning, and culvert cleaning. The Highway Superintendent stated that this work is beginning on Sessions Road.

**2. Trees in Sauquoit Creek**

Committee members voiced concerns regarding trees located in Sauquoit Creek that may need to be removed in order to prevent blockages and reduce flooding risk. Budget concerns were also discussed, as tree removal work was not included in the current year's budget.

**3. Chadwicks Bridge and Spillway Concerns**

Committee members expressed concern regarding the bridge and spillway in Chadwicks near Bleachery Avenue. Discussion included whether the Town plans to replace the bridge during the paving project and whether the spillways may be widened to improve water flow.

The Highway Superintendent stated that the Town has the bridge at the Town Garage and also has the forms needed to make jumbo blocks for the spillway.

**4. Flood Monitoring and High Water Sensors**

The Highway Superintendent stated that cameras will be installed at specific locations to monitor flooding conditions.

A committee member also asked whether the Town had reviewed the quote for high water level sensors. These sensors would provide real-time monitoring data and could send alerts to phones, email, and first responders in order to help warn residents and allow for advance preparation. This item remains pending approval.

**5. Legacy Dam Removal**

Discussion was held regarding removal of the Legacy Dam. It was reported that a quote for an engineering study is currently being prepared and should be available soon.

The Committee discussed that the dam is in a failure condition and that the best course of action would be removal of the dam and restoration of Sauquoit Creek to its natural flow. This would help alleviate storm water disturbances and reduce liability associated with potential dam failure. The dam is located just upstream of Chadwicks Town Park.

The Committee also noted that grant funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), along with in-kind services from the Town of Paris, may help make this high-risk project achievable after many years without action.

#### **6. Coordination with Town of Paris**

Two Committee members addressed the Town of Paris at one of its Board meetings regarding storm water issues in Sauquoit Creek that affect the Town of New Hartford. The Paris Town Board indicated a willingness to work with the New Hartford Storm Water Committee on these matters.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.