

Gino Mariani
4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

(810) 985-8607

mariani4@comcast.net

Mr. Fred Fuller, Drain Commissioner
21 South Airport Road
St. Clair, MI 48079

December 27, 2004

RE: Old Farm Neighborhood Drainage

Dear Mr. Fuller:

I have not yet received a response from you to a letter dated November 9, 2004, regarding the status of your attempts to resolve the blocked storm drain on Old Forge in the Old Farm Subdivision. I sent an email to the Road Commission making a similar inquiry, and they did respond, although not with the answers I was hoping to receive.

I ask you again:

- Have any additional actions been taken by your office to move on the items listed in your summary letter of May 27, 2004?
- Have any monies been secured in order to begin restoration of the damaged and blocked drain outlet on Old Forge to the Gossman drain?
- Has Environmental Engineering developed recommendations and action plans to resolve the obstruction and storm water backflow? If so, may I have a summary?
- Fort Gratiot Township (Robert Crawford) estimated that the cost to unblock the obstructed drain on Old Forge would exceed \$20,000. Can you provide me the contractor, action to remedy the problem, and cost estimate in detail?
- Please provide me with the address and name of the homeowner(s) who has the obstructed drain outlet on Old Forge.

It has been one year since the St. Clair County Road Commission successfully petitioned to move responsibility of their jurisdiction of the affected lands by annexation of Old Farm Subdivision to your jurisdiction. What progress has been made to obtaining easement documents from the affected property owners, and in the construction or reconstruction of drains as you claim is necessary? Has your jurisdiction of Old Farm storm drains been defined to the point that you can now begin resolving the problems claimed for justifying the annexation as well as the problems of storm water backup that I and other homeowners are suffering as a result of the blocked drain on Old Forge?

There is a significant problem that has steadily worsened over the course of a decade. Affected property owners will not allow our property value or health (one of the stated justifications of the petition) to potentially deteriorate as a result of storm water backups into our homes that may occur due to this problem. The ineffectual enforcement of drainage responsibilities to resolve the obstructed drains has added to this problem.

I look forward to your assistance and implementation of a plan to correct the problems.

Sincerely,



Gino Mariani
CC: Robert Crawford, Fort Gratiot Township Clerk

RECEIVED
DEC 28 2004
Charter Township
of Fort Gratiot



Charter Township
of Fort Gratiot

Minutes of Meeting, May 27, 2004

Gino Mariani Home, Guilford Lane, Old Farm Subdivision, Fort Gratiot Township

Present: Gino Mariani, homeowner
Robert Crawford, Fort Gratiot Township Clerk
Wally Roe, Asst. DPW Director, Fort Gratiot Twp.
Fred Fuller, Drain Commissioner
Charles Wood, Drain Office Project Manager
Greg Hoffmann, project engineer, Huron Environmental

Mr. Mariani explained the flooding of his basement from last weekend's heavy rains and asked who owned the current storm sewer system.

Fuller explained that the system was not yet under the jurisdiction of the Drain Commissioner despite the adding of these lands to the Gossman Drainage District and the finding of necessity for a drain project. The Drain Office as yet has no easements for the system and has not officially established a county drain here. Huron Environmental is still in the process of an engineering study for the drain project.

Crawford said that the township does not have jurisdiction. He said he had advised Mr. Mariani in the past to install a backflow preventer to protect his basement. Mr. Mariani is reluctant to install a backflow preventer or sump pump. Charles Wood and Wally Roe investigated the floor drain in Mr. Mariani's basement and gave additional advice on how a sump pump and backflow prevention might be installed to prevent damage until the county drain project could be completed.

It is uncertain what jurisdiction the County Road Commission has in the subdivision. It is assumed that the ditches and storm sewers along the road belong to the Road Commission. Many of the storm drains are not in the road rights-of-way, but are in the backyards of homes. Mariani said there is no active Homeowners' Association.

There are apparently several blockages in the storm sewer system that Road Commission and Township have not been able to fix. They require some major expenditures, so the Road Commission and Township petitioned the Drain Commissioner to establish a county drain to fix the problems.

Those present walked over to Old Forge Drive to look at several manholes and the ditch the storm sewer system outlets to, behind the homes on the north side of Old Forge Lane. It has been enclosed behind many homes with different types of pipe.

Bob Lawrie, of 4316 Old Forge Drive, came out and showed a catch basin made of 36" CSP with a wooden grate cover that functioned as a T in the system. He said there was an 18" plastic pipe upstream of his yard and he continued it downstream across his property with a 24" pipe. He said an "orphaned" drain enters the manhole from Old Forge Drive, as well as a small pipe for his neighbor's sump pump.

Action Items:

- Greg Hoffmann will show all the existing storm sewers on a map of the subdivision so that a decision can be made as to which will become county drains and which will remain under Road Commission jurisdiction.
- Fuller will discuss with his attorney whether any interim/emergency repair work can be done by the Drain Commissioner to remove blockages in the system.
- Fuller, Wood and Hoffmann will investigate the status of transferring Road Commission easements to the Drain Commissioner. They will also investigate how "private drain easements" shown on the subdivision plat can be put under Drain Commissioner jurisdiction.

Fuller, Fred

From: The Mariani Family [mariani4@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2004 8:44 PM
To: supervisor@fortgratit.org; Fuller, Fred
Subject: Today's Storm Water Backup

I would like to vent my frustration at the most recent backflow we have experienced in our home. Regardless of the heavy rains we have had these last few days, the well documented problem of storm sewer blockage and resulting flooding under far less circumstances of rainfall continues to wreak economic havoc in Old Farms, and specifically in my home. For the last several weeks prior to the most recent rains, there was standing water in our floor drain with no sign of receding. Since the rains came, we had the obvious results one would expect due to no free access of the storm water through the obstructed drains that are north of Old Forge. Now this evening, with no rainfall occurring, and with a previously dry basement with a water level just under the floor drain, we experience an unexpected and unaccounted major flood!! How can this be?? What kind of activity of water diversions or blockages are occurring to force a flooding incident when there is no rainfall?? What is happening to cause this with no apparent reason??

I have asked the township, drain commissioner and the road commission well in advance of these incidents for action to be taken to alleviate the problem. Although there has been response and assistance, permanent solutions and accountability has been sorely lacking. I, and others affected, should not have to live as hostage in fear of flooding when there is normal rainfall, let alone when there is no rain as occurred this evening.

I am to meet with various individuals from your departments this Thursday regarding the problem. I need to have an effective and permanent resolution to this problem. I need to know what accountabilities will be taken and by whom and by when.

This must be resolved.

Gino Mariani

February 2, 2004

COPIES GIVEN
TO TWP BOARD
MEMBERS ON
FEB 23, 2004



County of St. Clair, Michigan

FRED FULLER, DRAIN COMMISSIONER

21 AIRPORT DRIVE, ST. CLAIR, MICHIGAN 48079

RECEIVED
FEB 21 2004

County of Fort Gratiot
Phone: (810) 364-5369
Fax: (810) 364-7240

February 19, 2004

Mr. Gino Mariani
4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, Michigan 48059

RE: Your letter of February 2 about Old Farm Neighborhood Drainage

Dear Mr. Mariani:

Currently, my office does not own, operate, or have any control over the catch basins and storm drains in Old Farm Subdivision that you refer to in your letter. They are still owned by whoever has owned them in the past. It is not clear to me whether these are under the jurisdiction of Fort Gratiot Township, the Road Commission or a subdivision association. It is my understanding that both the township and the Road Commission have tried to fix the problems in the past, but have been unable to because some major reconstruction of the storm drain system is needed.

As you mention, on December 4, 2003, a Board of Determination found the St. Clair County Road Commission's petition to improve and extend the Gossman Drain necessary. The Board also found that lands in and near Old Farm Subdivision should be added to the Gossman Drain Drainage District. You, of course, were present and gave comments at that public hearing.

These determinations did not give my office immediate jurisdiction over the storm sewers and ditches that serve your neighborhood. The Gossman Drain does not currently extend west of State Road to reach Old Farm. The determinations gave my office the go-ahead to perform additional engineering and eventually establish some of those ditches and storm sewers as part of the Gossman Drain, and improve them as necessary to fix drainage problems in Old Farm. The engineering has started, but we are not going to be able to fix the problems prior to this spring's snowmelt and rain. We will be fortunate if we can accomplish it by *next* spring. It is a somewhat lengthy process, especially since county drain easements will need to be acquired from all the different property owners involved.

My advice is to seek help from the township, Road Commission, or subdivision association for any temporary measures that may alleviate flooding problems until we are able to create a permanent solution with the county drain project.

Sincerely,

Fred Fuller
Drain Commissioner

Cc: Madelyn McCarthy, Fort Gratiot Twp. Supervisor
Don Maronde, Managing Director, Road Commission
Kirk Weston, Deputy Managing Director, Road Commission

Email:
ffuller@stclaircounty.org

Department of Services



Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gino Mariani
4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

(810) 985-8607

manani4@comcast.net

February 2, 2004

Mr. Fred Fuller
St. Clair County Drain Commission
21 South Airport Road
St. Clair, MI 48079

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2004

Office of DRAIN COMMISSIONER
St. Clair County

RE: Old Farm Neighborhood Drainage

Dear Mr. Fuller:

You will recall that by recent vote of the St. Clair County Drain Commission, the Old Farms subdivision became a drainage district under your responsibility and has been added to the Gossman Drainage District. As I understand the implications of this assignment, your office will now have responsibility for ensuring adequate storm water drainage and the upkeep, maintenance, drain enforcement and necessary additions of drains in Old Farms that lead into the Gossman drainage system.

My property as well as several other properties running between Guilford Lane to the corner of Lantern Lane and Old Forge Lane are connected by a storm drain that empties into a catch basin located on the corner of Lantern Lane and Old Forge. This catch basin, which is supposed to empty north of Old Forge into the Gossman Drain, is completely obstructed. This obstruction has prevented the normal flow of storm water in this conduit of storm drains. Because of the obstruction, several flooding incidents have occurred over the last several years where properties connected to this drain have experienced basement flooding due to the backup of the storm water runoff.

Investigations of the incidents and subsequent inspections by the St. Clair County Road Commission (Mr. Glen Westrick) and by the Fort Gratiot Township DPW (Mr. Mike Aguinaga) have confirmed the obstructions and flow prevention. Attempts to remedy the obstruction by available financial means and methods were unsuccessful. Further investigation by the Road Commission confirms that the backup of water flow is due to the obstruction or elimination of culverts and roadside drain ditches within some properties on the north side of Old Forge. The culverts and ditches were apparently filled in sometime ago, although not known by me as to when the obstructions became sufficient to create the backflow of heavy water runoff.

Because there is no improvement to the situation, I and other homeowners stand a significant risk of basement flooding this spring unless measures are taken to remedy the drain obstruction and improve the drainage flow of the affected properties' drain conduits. What can your office promptly initiate in order to resolve the problem and reduce the real risk of basement flooding due to storm water backups? Can these measures take place before the snow melts and spring rains?

Please contact me by email, letter or phone to detail the likelihood of relief, the timing of resolution and the options to consider in resolving the problem.

I appreciate your consideration and assistance on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Gino Mariani

Mike

9/2/03

Please call

Jack DiGiuseppe
4298 Guilford Lane
work 987-8725

Re: His stern #20 problem
+ location of private
service line

Mike

Please call

Mark Smith

see Drain Comm.

364-5369

re: Old Farm Subd.
Drainage

6/05/03

11:21 AM

PHONE MESSAGE

Date: 6-13-03

Time: 9:00 a.m.

To: Mike A.

Re:

Message:

Roy Nowak 987-2230

3679 Old Farm Lane

-serious Flooding in basement

-Drainage Dist.

☒ Please Call

☐ FYI Only

(Roy Nowak seemed
upset that nothing
has been done)

10:20 a.m.
gave you
message over
Wex-Tel
SK

200

Mike —

Please call
Giro Marine

ph# 985-8607

Re: Water Backup inside House

© 4272 Guilford

6/5/03
9:41 am

Mike

6/5/03
11:00 am

Please call

Roy Nowak

3679 Old Farm Lane

987-2230

also experiencing storm
H2O Backup into their
Basement

C

Mike

Gino Mariani
(MAY ^{ON} E)

4272 Guilford

Returned your call -

Re: Catch Basin jurisdiction
in Old Town Sub
(OBSTRUCTION Removal)

Can be reached at work

Home 7-3 984-5581
X 312

mike

5/30/12

Please call

Gino Mariani

985-8607

Lives @ 4272 Guilford

He called 2 weeks ago +
talked to someone (was it you?)
about water backup in his
Basement thru floor drain

Reported waterhole's at
Guilford + Old Farm
+ old Forge + Old Farm
possibly the problem

The person he talked to said they
would investigate + report back to him
So it wasn't you, maybe Jerry Dawson.

DRAIN COMM

OLD FARM
DRAIN

April 1, 1998

Madelyn McCarthy
Township Supervisor
3720 Keewahdin
Fort Gratiot, MI. 48059-3309

Madelyn,

I received your faxed letter dated March 24, 1998. The letter was to Gregg Kamsickas and Debra Moue in regard to drainage / flooding issues. The Township is claiming no ownership per your letter (attachment A) just a request to encourage the aforementioned parties to not block the natural water course. Per our prior conversations the Township has contacted there attorney (May 19, 1997) and advised the issues are common law and must be pursued privately.

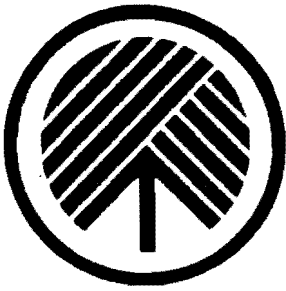
Please be advised, is it is against the law to block a natural water course and I believe the Township does have jurisdiction in this area. I have tried with NO success to contact the Township attorney on this matter. I would greatly enjoy the Townships full involvement into the resolution of this problem that has gone on far to long. Also, I believe there are a couple of properties owners not listed in your letter that are blocking the natural water way.

Respectfully,



Stephen R. Slezinski
3609 Sunset Lane

file - Attachment B



Charter Township of
Fort Gratiot

MADELYN A. McCARTHY

Supervisor

MARILYN J. TATE

Clerk

GEORGE J. KISH

Treasurer

March 24, 1998

Donald/Linda Leffler
4452 North River Road
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Leffler,

The Township has been contacted by a homeowner on Sunset Lane that is experiencing flooding. He has discussed the problem with the County Drain Commissioner and Township officials.

We have been informed that there are no County drains near the owners property, however the drain map does show a natural water course running along the back of several homes on North River Road. This natural water course heads toward the Black River. Please see enclosed map.

Since the Township does not have any legal jurisdiction regarding this drainage issue, I can only encourage you to help your neighbor and not block this natural water course. If any tubing is placed within the area of the natural water course, it is recommended that an engineer be consulted so that the proper size and type of tubing be utilized.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Madelyn A. McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Fort Gratiot

MAM/jh



Charter Township of
Fort Gratiot

MADELYN A. McCARTHY
Supervisor

MARILYN J. TATE
Clerk

GEORGE J. KISH
Treasurer

February 10, 1998

Mr. Gino Mariani
4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

Dear Mr. Mariani:

The following information is in response to your questions:

The township has installed a new crossroad culvert on State Road and has enclosed the road ditch near the Gossman Drain. Also, we have cleaned out the ditch near the Gossman Drain that runs behind East Surrey.

The D.P.W. has not done anything to change the flow in the sanitary sewer system. There have been no maintenance problems with the sanitary sewer system in Old Farms Subdivision.

The basement flooding incidents which some homeowners experienced last summer was not due to restricted or inadequate flow capacity in the sanitary system. The water that entered their homes was storm water or may have been caused by someone emptying their pool into a deteriorated storm sewer system. It is illegal to put storm water into the sanitary sewer system.

The sanitary sewer system is not overloaded and has additional capacity for expansion. It was designed to handle waste water not groundwater drainage. Again, it is illegal to use the sanitary sewer system for groundwater.

The commercial expansion in the township has not had a negative effect on the sanitary system in the Old Farms Subdivision.

The flooding incidents of this summer were not a result of an obstruction in the sanitary sewer system.

Any questions regarding the establishment of a drainage district and the associated costs, can be answered by the County Drain Commissioner.

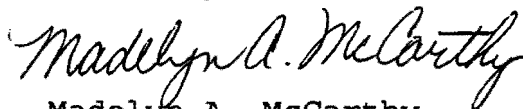
Roadside ditches are designed to handle roadway run-off. They were not designed to drain property. The ditches were installed at the time the Old Farm Subdivision was built. Through the years, many residents burned leaves in the ditches that eventually led to a build up of soil in the

bottom of the ditches. Other residents have filled in their road ditch to make it easier to mow. Homeowners must obtain a permit from the Road Commission to install or replace a culvert. Thus, the maintenance of road ditches and culverts is an on going problem. The new subdivision construction codes no longer permit the use of open roadside ditches. All ditches must be enclosed.

The Township continues to encourage the residents of Old Farms Subdivision to work with the County Drain Commissioner and establish their subdivision as a drainage district. To date, Drain Commissioner Fred Fuller has not received the petition that was circulated at the October 16, 1997, Old Farm Subdivision Association meeting.

If I can be of further assistance please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Madelyn A. McCarthy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Madelyn A. McCarthy
Township Supervisor

Alice & Gino Mariani

4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

RECEIVED
DEC 15 1997

Mrs. Madelyn A. McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Fort Gratiot
3720 Keewahdin Road
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

Charter Twp. of Fort Gratiot December 13, 1997

Dear Mrs. McCarthy,

it has been a while since you met with the Old Farm Homeowners Association to discuss the water drainage issues of our sub-division. At our Association meeting of October 16, you presented a petition for the application of our neighborhood to the county drainage district. This petition apparently received sufficient signatures to begin the petition process. Since this petition was submitted, I have not heard of any actions taken on the petition, nor of the status of the process if it indeed has begun. Additionally, I had submitted to you a list of questions regarding, among other items, the state of the proposed cleanup by the County Road Commission of the drainage ditch that is north of Old Forge, and the issue of sanitary sewer maintenance, conditions and cleanup by Fort Gratiot Township.

I would like to state that my inquiries are strictly on my behalf as a property owner in Fort Gratiot. I do not claim to represent any other organization in this regard.

I would be grateful if you or your designate could provide me with answers and information to my questions.

Sincerely,



Gino Mariani

To: Madelyn McElthy

from: Gino Manani - please
Reply

**Questions for the Township Meeting
October 16, 1997**

1. What has the township or county done to improve the maintenance of the subdivision's storm water drainage system, specifically the maintenance of the storm water drainage ditch north of Old Forge that empties into the Gossman Drain?
2. What has the DPW done in the last four months to improve flows in the sanitary sewer systems? It appears that water levels in sanitary drains have lowered. Has maintenance frequency increased?
3. Homeowner incidents of flooding occurred this past summer. Were the flooding incidents the result of restricted or inadequate flows in the sanitary system to cause a backup in basement floor drains?
4. Is the sanitary sewer system overloaded and are measures being pursued to accommodate additional residential and commercial building?
5. Has the commercial expansion in the north end of the Township caused a negative effect on the sanitary systems that are in Old Farms?
6. If the flooding incidents of this summer were the result of sanitary sewer obstructions and not due to storm water runoff, why then should the Association pursue a petition to install storm sewers in the neighborhood as a means of rectifying a problem due to the sanitary sewer system?
7. If the residents agreed to pursue the installation of a storm sewer system, is there an estimate for the costs and time required to complete the project? How would the costs be assigned to the homeowners?
8. What benefits are to be gained by installing a storm sewer system in the neighborhood?
9. Why do some residents' roadside ditches fill with storm water whereas many others do not? Has the county executed their responsibility of maintaining the roadside drainage ditches and culverts as they are required to do?
10. What else is the Township planning to do in order to minimize potential flooding from sanitary or storm overflows?

22 years 3 times 2 years

3679 old farm

The Nowak

no sludge pump



Charter Township of

Fort Gratiot

MADELYN A. McCARTHY
Supervisor

MARILYN J. TATE
Clerk

GEORGE J. KISH
Treasurer

July 31, 1997

Mr. Gino Mariani
4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

Dear Mr. Mariani:

Thank you for your letter regarding the drainage problems in the Old Farms Subdivision. The water flow in the Old Forge drain does appear to be restricted at several places. A clean out of that area appears to be necessary. Since the original drainage system was designed to have all the surface water from the subdivision flow to the drain behind Old Forge, a clean out of the drain should help the drainage in the entire subdivision.

I will ask a County official to do an inspection of the road drain in front of your property.

The petition that I sent you asks the Drain Commissioner to hold a public hearing. If a sufficient number of landowners sign the petition, the Drain Commissioner would appoint a Board of Determination to conduct the public hearing. The Board of Determination is a three person board, generally Township Supervisors from surrounding communities are asked to serve. At the public hearing, residents would have an opportunity to discuss the drainage problems they are experiencing. If the Board feels that a drainage district is warranted, they can direct the Drain Commissioner to establish a district. There is no guarantee that a drainage district would be established, or storm sewer system installed.

Please contact the Drain Commissioner regarding whether or not the decisions of the Board are binding. He would also be able to answer your questions regarding cost estimates.

If the Board of Determination feels that the problems raised at the public hearing warrant the establishment of a drainage district, an engineer would be hired. The engineer would develop a drainage plan and determine the most economical means of correcting the problems.

The township has approved funding some ditching on State Road, which may help the drainage in Old Farms. For the long term, I still feel that Old Farms Subdivision should be part of a drainage district. If you need more information please contact me.

Sincerely,

Township Supervisor

Alice & Gino Mariani

4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

RECEIVED
JUL 1 1997

Mrs. Madelyn A. McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Fort Gratiot
3720 Keewahdin Road
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

Charter Twp. of Fort Gratiot June 30, 1997

Dear Mrs. McCarthy,

I appreciate the information you provided to me regarding your activity to alleviate potential drainage problems in Old Farms Subdivision.

There are a number of questions and concerns that I have regarding the activity to date and the possible remedies to the water runoff situation in our neighborhood. For example, does the drain behind Old Forge require cleanup? If so, will the cleanup of the drain restore normal storm water runoff flow? What has to occur for the cleanup of the drain to proceed?

As to the blue prints of the drainage system, how will this be used either by the Township or the County Road Commission with regards to the current state of water flow? I understand that an official of the County Road Commission was recently inspecting manholes on Old Forge. What if anything was determined as to the condition of the drains?

My roadside ditches seem to backup with any substantial rainfall. Can you ask a County official come to my residence for purposes of inspecting my roadside ditches and culverts? It appears to be obstructed underneath Guilford Lane. Any substantial rainfall quickly fills my culvert to a level that is close to overflowing. Neighbors that surround me do not experience this level of water accumulation in their culverts.

Finally with regards to the petition, I would like a more detailed explanation and estimate as to what this action will initiate and what the petition could ultimately lead up to. For example, the petition is required to initiate a Board of Determination public hearing. Does this guarantee that a sewer system will be deemed necessary? Who sits on the Board and how are the decisions made to put the Old Farms Subdivision on the County drainage district? How long does it take for the Board to render a decision? Is the decision of the Board binding? Are there any estimates beforehand as to the cost of installing a storm sewer system, how the installation would be financed and who would pay for the sewers? Lastly for my personal situation, would the installation of the sewer system resolve the potential water backup through my basement floor drain? Or would maintenance of the existing sanitary sewer system or the subdivision drainage routes resolve my problem without the need for storm sewers?

Mrs. McCarthy, I do appreciate your efforts on this matter. But I also feel it necessary to obtain answers to the questions I have posed prior to initiating any sort of petition drive within the neighborhood. I anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely,



Gino Mariani



Charter Township of

Fort Gratiot

MADELYN A. McCARTHY
Supervisor

MARILYN J. TATE
Clerk

GEORGE J. KISH
Treasurer

June 25, 1997

Mr. Gino Mariani
4272 Guilford Lane
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

Dear Mr. Mariani:

Thank you for your patience. I have been working with the St. Clair County Drain Commissioner and the St. Clair County Road Commission to find a permanent solution to the drainage problems in the Old Farms Subdivision. The drain which runs behind Old Forge may be cleaned this year.

Attempts are being made to obtain the original blue prints of the drainage system for the subdivision. The Township only has a partial set of prints for the northeast corner of the subdivision.

The Drain Commissioner sent me the enclosed petition. Please sign the petition and have nine other freeholders sign the petition. See note at the bottom of the petition. This will start the process for a Board of Determination public hearing.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Madelyn A. McCarthy
Township Supervisor



RECEIVED

APR 24 1997

County of St. Clair, Michigan Charter Twp. of Fort Gratiot

FRED FULLER, DRAIN COMMISSIONER

Phone (810) 364-5369

21 AIRPORT DRIVE, ST. CLAIR, MICHIGAN 48079

Fax: (810) 364-9050

April 23, 1997

Madelyn A. McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Fort Gratiot
3720 Keewahdin Road
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

Dear Madelyn,

Thanks for your letter of April 9, 1997. I am enclosing a petition for establishing a drainage district in the Old Farms Subdivision area and a copy of Chapters 3 and 4 of The Drain Code of 1956, which describe the process. Either the subdivision residents or the township will need to make a cash deposit to cover the preliminary costs as described in Chapter 3. That deposit would be estimated based on proposals from engineering firms. Please call me or Deputy Drain Commissioner Debbie Westrick if you have questions.

As I told you on the phone, I was contacted by Steve Slezinski of 3609 Sunset Lane and Jim Coggins of 3625 Sunset Lane, who have had flooding problems at their houses which may be related to the Old Farm problems. I investigated their drainage on April 10 and determined that there is a ridge of higher ground between Sunset Lane and Branch A of the Brandymore Drain, to the west, so their drainage doesn't naturally go that way.

I found that there was an old ditch leading southwest that once drained the wet woods west of Sunset Lane. It has become plugged up in several places, and a landowner told me last year a neighbor filled in the ditch and replaced it with a 6" tube that is inadequate. This landowner said the ditch still crosses North River Road through a culvert to the Black River, but Steve Slezinski tells me that culvert may have been downsized at some point from a 60" to a 20".

I have explained to Steve Slezinski that this old ditch is not a county drain over which I have jurisdiction. Is it possible the township or the subdivision has any easement for it? The plugging of this ditch may also be causing the recent Old Farm problems.

A Government of Service

RECEIVED

APR 24 1997

Madelyn McCarthy
April 23, 1997
Page 2

Charter Twp. of Fort Gratiot

Probably there is no easement for the old ditch. Under civil law, the neighbors can't plug that drainage, but unless an agreement is reached, only a civil court case could settle it.

I told Steve Slezinski that his best bet for immediate relief was to see if he could get some help from the neighbors and the township to open the old ditch back up. A petitioned county drain project then may address the long-term situation.

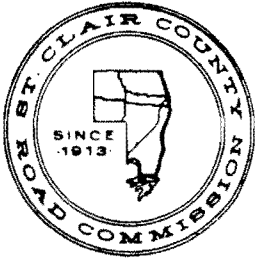
Sincerely,

Fred Fuller dlw

Fred Fuller
Drain Commissioner

FF/dlw

CC: Steve Slezinski



ROAD COMMISSION

AIRPORT

RECEIVED
PUBLIC WORKS
AUG 5 1994

COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR

21 Airport Drive, St. Clair, Michigan 48079

Phone 810 364-5720

Fax 810-364-9050

Charter Twp. of Fort Gratiot

August 3, 1994

Ms. Madelyn McCarthy, Supervisor
Charter Township of Fort Gratiot
3720 Keewahdin Road
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

RE: Old Farms Drainage

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

At their regular meeting on August 2, 1994, the St. Clair County Board of Road Commissioners discussed your letter regarding Mr. Lowrie's request to enclose the drainage ditch that runs along the back of his property.

The board took action to refer the situation to the administration of the road commission in order that we can follow up with Mr. Lowrie. We will be contacting him directly to advise him of the type of installation that must be placed so as to maintain the integrity of the drainage easement.

We do have jurisdiction over the easement in question since it was established to handle the road drainage within the Old Farms Subdivision. Apparently, there was some misunderstanding on the part of the Permits Department.

We pride ourselves on being able to handle most issues at administrative level without having to bring the board into a situation unless it requires a policy decision. Anytime, you feel there is some miscommunication or misunderstanding, please feel free to contact me directly. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused the township.

If you need any further information, please call.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR


John D. Perry, Managing Director

sb

cc: Marilyn Tate, Clerk

4342 OLD Forge Dr.
Port Huron, MI 48060
May 11, 1981

Members, The Fort Gratiot Board
3720 Keewahdān Rd.
Port Huron, MI 48060

Dear Board Members;

So often, the mail to a group such as yours is negative and the rather unpleasant type of correspondence. I would like to present a change of pace from that for you. This morning at 6:15 AM I was awakened by a rather familiar cry of, "Don, there is water in the basement." I arose from bed, in not the best of moods to see to the water problem. I found that there was about three (3) inches of water in the basement; no where near a record but enough to be appropriate for a gloomy Monday.

After many trials and tribulations, my wife called Andy Knisley to inform him of our plights. He referred her to Norbert Gragowski, who after an appropriate time came to the house with a couple of men. During this time, in order to get things underway, Maurey Foley and Marilyn Bennett were contacted. They were all a tremendous help to us with Marilyn being involved in several phone calls to and from Mrs. Vincent. Through her efforts and with the approval of Mr. Foley, the County was contacted and, lo and behold, two of their men came out and blew out the culvert behind David Pierce's house. You see the drainage ditch that runs accross the Old Farm in the rear goes past Mr. Pierce's house and he had filled the ditch in and placed an 18" culvert there. The culvert was plugged and this is what caused the water to back up into our basement. There will be more on this in the future as my wife and I intend to follow up on this and find out, once and for all what can be done about this infamous ditch.

My main purpose in writing this letter is to thank all of the above for their help and willing cooperation in this matter. We had a duplication of this situation, of sorts, a couple of years ago and the members of the former regime failed to do anything but refer us to the County who returned the favor and nothing was done until we saw to it on our own. I shall be happy to sing the praises of these people and say again, thank you. It is a good feeling to deal with people who care and are willing and anxious to be of help when it is needed. Thank you Andy, Maurey, Marilyn and Norbert, again.

Sincerely,


Donald E. Vincent