



Mount Vernon

City of Mount Vernon

40 Public Square
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Phone 740-393-9517
Fax 740-397-6595

Richard K. Mavis
Mayor

City Council

Bruce E. Hawkins

President

Sam Barone

First Ward

John Francis

Second Ward

Nancy R. Vail

Third Ward

Mike Hillier

Fourth Ward

Janis Seavolt

At Large

Christopher Menapace

At Large

Matt Starr

At Large

Administration

Richard K. Mavis

Mayor

Joel Daniels

Safety Service Director

P. Robert Broeren, Jr.

Law Director

John Thatcher

Judge

David Stuller

Treasurer

Terry L. Scott

Auditor

Tanya Newell

Clerk of Council

Lindsay Hoar

Assistant Clerk of Council

August 5, 2019

Dear Landings Property Owner:

Since 2017, the City of Mount Vernon has been working with the various homeowner associations and individual homeowners within the Landings Subdivision to address parts of the private stormwater system that require repairs and maintenance. Some of the required work has been completed. However, the damage noted in the August 8, 2018 violation letter to the Landings Property Owner Association has not been addressed. The heavy rains in the spring of 2019 have continued to damage the private stormwater system up and downstream of the Knox Cattle Dam. The Knox Cattle Dam creates the lake adjacent to the Water's Edge Properties.

The developers of the Landings Subdivision made modifications to this dam to hold stormwater during rain events. The stormwater control system within the Landings Subdivision was required to reduce downstream flooding that would be caused by the addition of significant impervious areas related to this development. This stormwater control system throughout this subdivision was constructed pursuant to city and state regulations at the time of the start of this development. Additionally, the developers and property owners were required to set up a means for operation and maintenance of the stormwater system on private property.

Since the homeowner associations and property owners have not stepped forward to fix damage to this stormwater system, the City Administration is offering to lead a stormwater project under City Code and regulations. Within the Landings subdivision, there are parts of the stormwater system that have been damaged by flooding. The Knox Cattle Dam is one of these features damaged by flooding.

On July 16, 2019, the City was contacted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Dam Safety Division (ODNR) to notify City Administration that ODNR had received letters, calls and public records requests from citizens and legal counsel related to the Knox Cattle Dam within the Landings subdivision. The ODNR stated that these communications had raised concerns about the lack of proper maintenance of the Knox Cattle Dam. This dam has been an ODNR regulated Dam since the mid-1970's. The ODNR notified the City they would perform an inspection the week of July 23, 2019 and may be pursuing an enforcement case. Representatives of the city administration and members of the subdivision attended the inspection with the ODNR.

The offer that has been proposed to City Council, under §920 of City Code, is the City would lead a project to study and then repair the stormwater deficiencies within the Landings, bringing the stormwater system and the dam into compliance with State and Local Laws. The responsible landowners in the Landings Subdivision would be required to repay these costs.

City To 8
Landings
8/5/19



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Why not stop all permits

If the City does not do a project on behalf of the Landings, the ODNR may choose to evaluate the Knox Cattle Dam and conduct an investigation into who owns the dam and take action they deem necessary to protect the public.

Until these violations of city code are resolved, the City will not be able to issue stormwater or zoning permits for new structures in the Landings Subdivision.

In an effort to better explain the City's position described above City Council will hold a public meeting about the Landings Subdivision stormwater system on August 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Station Break Senior Center at 160 Howard Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Mavis
Mayor
City of Mount Vernon