



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mike Cochran, Town Manager  
Mayana Rice, Assistant Town Manager  
Michael Surrett, Director of Public Works

From: Matthew R. Lane, P.E., Town Engineer

Date: September 6, 2023

**RE: HAGY STREET DRAINAGE ISSUE**

The two residential homes located between Country Boy Seed and Eades Auto Repair along Hagy Street report issues with stormwater inundating their lawns during significant rainfall events. The area that contributes runoff to the homes is generally from the properties north to Colonial Road and east to Preston Street. A portion of the runoff flows along the shoulder of Colonial Road to Preston Street and then onto Hagy Street. From there, the runoff flows along the shoulder of Hagy Street across the Country Boy Seed entrance and then to the subject properties. Additional runoff flows down grade from Colonial Road south to Hagy Street. The runoff eventually flows to a large, grassed drainage swale between the subject properties and Eades Auto Repair. Figure 1 illustrates the general path of stormwater runoff. Currently, no ditch or other drainage structures exist between Hagy Street and the subject properties. This allows the runoff to enter the yards of the residential homes. It was also noted that some of the roof gutters on the homes themselves discharge directly adjacent to the foundations of the homes. The following are recommendations for reducing the impact of stormwater on the subject properties:

1. During a rainfall event, a significant amount of water can be collected and discharged from roof gutters. All roof gutters should be connected to a drainage pipe that diverts stormwater away from the homes.
2. A four-inch asphalt berm could be constructed from the Country Boy Seed entrance, along Hagy Street, to the parking area for Eades Auto Repair, which connects to the drainage swale as shown on Figure 2. Written permission should be obtained from Country Boy Seed and Eades Auto Repair as some of the asphalt curb may be constructed outside of Town right of way.

I am happy to meet with you to discuss the situation and the proposed recommendations.

**END OF MEMORANDUM**



Figure 1

Esri, Community Maps Contributors, VGN, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoEye, IGN, Aeri, USDA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Commonwealth of Virginia, MA



Country Boy Seed

- Legend**
- Asphalt Driveway
  - Edge of Pavement
  - Ground
  - Ditch

Begin Asphalt Curb

Residential Home

Residential Home

Hagy Street

Grass Lined Drainage Swale

Eades Auto Repair

End Asphalt Curb



Figure 2

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# TOWN OF ABINGDON

133 West Main Street • PO Box 789 • Abingdon, VA 24212

November 14, 2023

RE: [REDACTED] Hagy Street properties

Lisa Dawn Andis  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Andis:

Our records show that you are the owner of [REDACTED] Hagy Street in Abingdon. In recent months, a neighbor to these properties has brought to the Town's attention some stormwater issues that concern him. The resident had requested that the Town install an asphalt berm parallel to Preston Street at the Hagy Street intersection.

The Town cannot perform work of this nature without having the items reviewed for appropriateness by a credentialed engineer. To fully understand the issue, the Town engaged The Lane Group for an engineering study of the water flow. This report was provided to the concerned party.

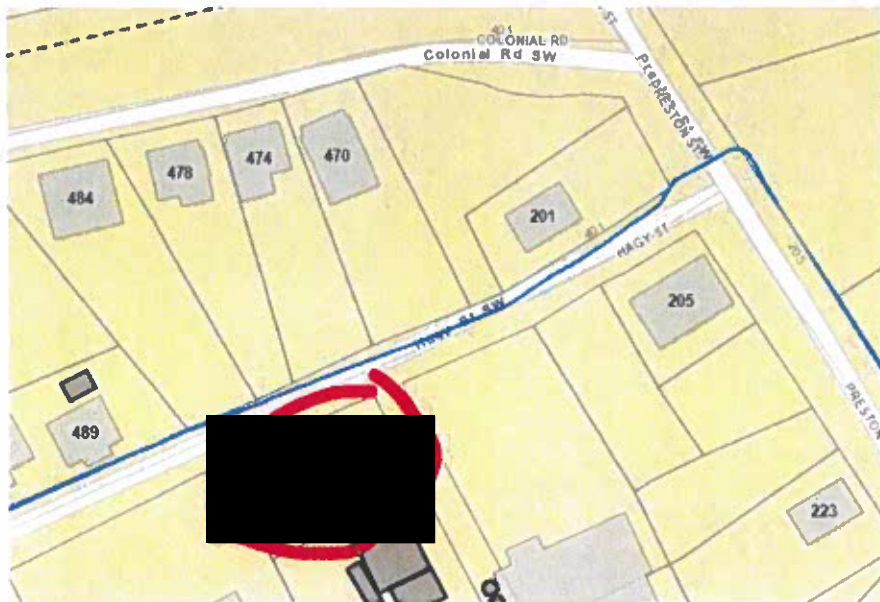
Attached is the engineer's report along with the hydrology model for the area. The engineering firm has specialty software that allows for this type of analysis. This is helpful because sometimes water does not come from where people think that it does.

Because this concern was raised and your property was mentioned as being impacted, I wanted to provide this with you for reference purposes. Note that the engineer provided possible solutions in the study. The Town does not do work on private property, these were provided simply to help any interested party in knowing what options existed to help mitigate the issue.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Mike Cochran, Town Manager

[REDACTED] • E: [mcochran@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:mcochran@abingdon-va.gov)



Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Mike Cochran  
Town Manager



# TOWN OF ABINGDON

133 West Main Street • PO Box 789 • Abingdon, VA 24212

November 14, 2023

Mr. Eddie Copenhaver



Dear Mr. Copenhaver:

During your public comments at the Abingdon Town Council meeting on 11-13-2023 you referred to recommendations that I made to you. As a point of clarification, recall that you were present at a meeting at Town Hall on August 15, 2023. This meeting was with the Town Engineer, Matthew Lane P.E.

Present at the meeting were Town Staff from Public Works as well as the Assistant Town Manager. This meeting was called with the Town Engineer after you and I discussed your suggested solutions for the stormwater issue on Preston Street at Hagy Street (next to your home). When this was suggested, I told you that the Town cannot take action regarding drainage or roadways without having them examined for appropriateness by a qualified engineer.

Matthew Lane is the owner of The Lane Group in town and serves as the Town Engineer. He is a credentialed Professional Engineer with nearly 30 years of experience in the field, many of them working on hydrology related issues. It is with this knowledge base that decisions regarding your recommendation were vetted.

As I told you, the Town cannot take an action that would adversely impact another property owner. Your suggestion of adding a 2-inch berm crossing Hagy Street at Preston Street would divert water to an area that is already experiencing water disbursement difficulties during high flow times caused by rain events.

Mike Cochran, Town Manager

• E: [mcochran@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:mcochran@abingdon-va.gov)



When Matthew Lane wrote his analysis of the situation in his September 6, 2023 memo to the Town, this memo was shared with you along with a lengthy explanation from myself.

Below is the section of the memo from the engineer that mentions a 4-inch berm. The suggestion was one made by the engineer, not by me or other Town staff.

1. During a rainfall event, a significant amount of water can be collected and discharged from roof gutters. All roof gutters should be connected to a drainage pipe that diverts stormwater away from the homes.
2. A four-inch asphalt berm could be constructed from the Country Boy Seed entrance, along Hagy Street, to the parking area for Eades Auto Repair, which connects to the drainage swale as shown on Figure 2. Written permission should be obtained from Country Boy Seed and Eades Auto Repair as some of the asphalt curb may be constructed outside of Town right of way.

I am happy to meet with you to discuss the situation and the proposed recommendations.

In my September 20, 2023 email to you, I told you that the Town does not do work on private property. The work suggested was simply to give interested property owners an option should they desire to remediate their properties.

If you look at the green dotted arrow that shows where the water flow comes from and goes on Hagy Street off of Preston, the existing asphalt berm that is along your property line keeps the water from being absorbed by the swale. Once past the berm, the water begins to flow back towards the houses behind yours. When we spoke recently, I did indicate to you that the Town could remove that asphalt berm. The Town does not do work on private property so we cannot do some of the suggested remediation efforts that the engineer suggests. We can also move the closure for Hagy Street to closer to what your rear parking lot used be before the road was closed to become part of the trail system. If you would like this done, please let me know.

In the memo that was sent to you, the flow models for the water that is impacting Hagy Street are shown with blue arrows. Note that the existing concrete berm at the edge of Hagy Street adjacent to your residence prevents the water from getting to the grass. Grass swales are part of nature's natural way to process water. This berm prevents the water from draining and pushes it to the rear of your property thus exacerbating the situation with the properties behind yours. To help reduce the impact of water on the rear properties, this berm is being removed.

Mike Cochran, Town Manager

• E: mcochran@abingdon-va.gov



The Town has made every reasonable effort to listen to your concerns, evaluate your suggestions and examine the problem to identify possible solutions. Understand that the Town cannot work on private property, the Town cannot do work that will adversely impact one property to help another, the Town cannot do any work of this nature that has not been properly examined by the appropriate, credentialed professionals.

In previous communications, I have requested that if you have any further ideas to send them in writing so that they can be properly vetted by the required professionals. This has not happened but would be welcome as we would like to assist wherever we legally can.

Lastly, last month you referred to possible environmental issues near your house at the old Hilt Towing property. Upon checking with the Virginia DEQ, they reported that there are no known issues with that property that the

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Mike Cochran, Town Manager

• E: [mcochran@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:mcochran@abingdon-va.gov)



Sincerely,



Mike Cochran  
Town Manager

CC: Matthew Lane, The Lane Group

## Mike Cochran

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**From:** Mike Cochran  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4:48 PM  
**To:** Eddie Copenhaver  
**Subject:** RE: [External]Re: [External]RE: [External]Hagy St. Flooding  
**Attachments:** Memo 9.6.23.pdf

Received your message but was in a meeting. Attached is the analysis and opinion of our engineering firm on this issue. While I appreciate suggestions on potential remedies for this problem, I have to defer to credentialed professionals for review and analysis prior to taking any action.

If you look at the green dotted arrow that shows where the water flow comes from and goes on Hagy Street off of Preston, the existing asphalt berm that is along your property line keeps the water from being absorbed by the swale. Once past the berm, the water begins to flow back towards the houses behind yours. When we spoke recently, I did indicate to you that the Town could remove that asphalt berm. The Town does not do work on private property so we cannot do some of the suggested remediation efforts that the engineer suggests. We can also move the closure for Hagy Street to closer to what your rear parking lot used be before the road was closed to become part of the trail system. If you would like this done, please let me know.

If you look closely at the photos that show the waterflow, you'll see that most of the water hitting this area is from Colonial Road and it flows downhill towards the impacted homes. The engineering firm has access to sophisticated hydrology models that are capable of producing reports such as this.

We have a staff member that is continually looking for grant dollars to fix some of the issues like this one. In that it is not in a FEMA repetitive flood loss zone, getting federal money will not be easy. They use rating formulas on these grants that assess how many homes would benefit from funds. These are extremely competitive and require repetitive flood losses to score high enough for funding of remediation efforts.

Feel free to share this with the neighboring properties. There are some relatively easy suggestions for them that would help prevent foundation damage to their homes from gutter sourced rainwater.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I can set up another meeting with our engineer and staff if you have additional questions. If you do, please send them in email form so that I can get those researched and answered prior to the meeting. This way we will be able to use everyone's time more efficiently.

Mike  
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Mike Cochran, *Town Manager*  
**Town of Abingdon**  
PO Box 789  
Abingdon, Virginia 24212

*"Building bridges in the community, one handshake at a time."*

FBINA-246 Session

**From:** Eddie Copenhaver [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 6:55 AM

To: Mike Cochran <mcochran@abingdon-va.gov>

Subject: [External]Re: [External]RE: [External]Hagy St. Flooding

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for your quick reply. To be more clear about my request, all I am asking for is a small strip of asphalt across Hagy Street.



The problem is not with the main drainage culvert, but with the water being directed down Hagy St.



This water should be going down the gutter along Preston St. instead of down Hagy St. flooding the two houses and flowing across Country Boy Seed and the auto repair shop.

I have shared video of a medium rain event at [REDACTED]  
In the first video (with car) you can see the gutter along Preston St. is not close to capacity.  
The next two videos are of the water flowing down Hagy St toward the houses being flooded instead of the gutter on Preston St.  
The third video shows some of water from the gutter on Preston St. flowing backward and down Hagy St

I think just a one or two inch tall strip of asphalt would alleviate this problem with minimal impact on the Urban Pathway.

This problem does not directly affect my property but is an issue with my neighbors.

I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience if you have any questions.

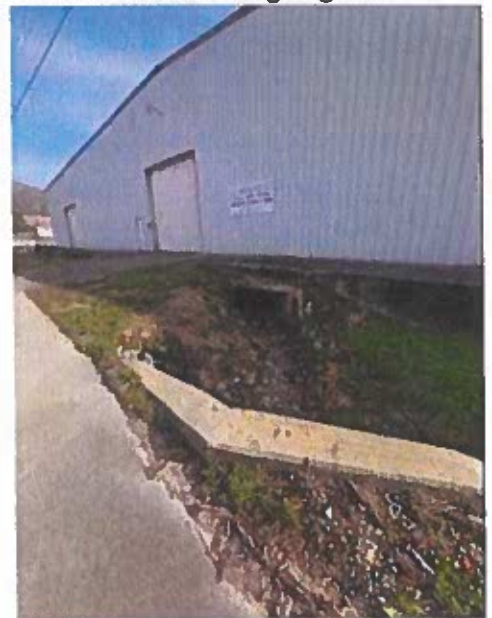
On 6/20/2023 1:36 PM, Mike Cochran wrote:

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for your email.

Back in early March, I met out on site on Preston Street with town staff on this exact issue. Am going to have Public Works look next to your house to see if there are any blockages & fix, if necessary.

In looking at this with staff, it appears that the issue pre-dates anything in the past decade. It being at the low point of a collection point with inadequate output. The stormwater drainage system for that part of town handles all the water from the radio tower, upper Russel Road and that part of town. That can create a lot of water. Couple the volume with the size and type of some of the culverts and what you have is a limited ability to move enough water through to prevent water from backing up during periods of heavy rain. When that road was repaved and the pedestrian path put in, staff extended the pipe below it but that did not restrict the flow, it just added roughly 6 feet to the length to the existing pipe.



As you can see from the photos, the main drainage culvert runs under the warehouse. Expanding the size of this is not possible given the location. Others are undersized and appear to need maintenance. Modern stormwater designs call for rectangular or box culverts as they increase the throughput and they would not build them over structures in this type of area.

I've asked staff to do whatever we can to help minimize this problem. If adding an asphalt lip will help without just shifting the problem to another location, we can certainly do that. Additionally, staff is always on the lookout for any grant funding for stormwater or flood mitigation.

The paving is a great thing indeed. The VDOT and town staff really do a great job working to help keep Abingdon looking as great as it does.



Have a great week and please let me know if you have any questions.

Mike

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Mike Cochran, Town Manager  
Town of Abingdon

PO Box 789  
Abingdon, Virginia 24212

"Building bridges in the community, one handshake at a time."

FBINA-246 Session

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, June 17, 2023 8:48 AM  
To: Mike Cochran <[mcochran@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:mcochran@abingdon-va.gov)>  
Cc: Amanda Pillion <[apillion@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:apillion@abingdon-va.gov)>; Dwyane Anderson <[danderson@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:danderson@abingdon-va.gov)>;  
Derek Webb <[dwebb@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:dwebb@abingdon-va.gov)>; Donna Quetsch <[dquetsch@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:dquetsch@abingdon-va.gov)>; Wayne Austin  
<[waustin@abingdon-va.gov](mailto:waustin@abingdon-va.gov)>  
Subject: [External]Hagy St. Flooding

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

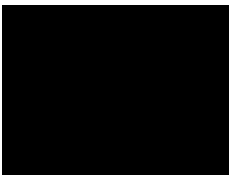
June 17, 2023

To: Abingdon Town Manager and Town Council

I have noticed the new pavement along Main Street and it looks really good. Please don't forget about the flooding problem on Hagy St. between Preston St. and Butt St. The flooding was caused by the re-pavement of Preston St. some years ago. It would take very little to fix this problem and alleviate the flooding of two residences and two businesses. A thin strip of one or two inch thick of pavement across the now closed Hagy St. would channel the water into the proper storm gutter on Preston St. Along with helping with the flooding problem this would keep the storm water runoff much cleaner by directing it directly into a creek instead of passing through a former feed mill and auto repair shop. I would love to talk to any council member about this problem

Thank you for you attention

Eddie Copenhaver



## Mike Cochran

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**From:** Mike Cochran  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Hagy Street at Preston - stormwater issue that you called about  
**Attachments:** hagy street flooding 06-21-2023.pdf; letter- Hagy Street at Preston 112023.pdf; Memo 9.6.23.pdf; Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer.pdf

Joe - It is my understanding that you have called again but do not want to send an email. As I have stated previously, **if you request information that is obtainable and can be released, I will get the information to you by COB the same day.** If you want accurate information, the best way to get it is to ask me and let me get the correct information to you. Calling people who do not know the details is likely going to waste your time as well as that of our staff or of the elected.

With respect to the citizen concern on Hagy Street at Preston:

Attached are four items regarding this situation:

**Hagy Street Flooding 06-21-2023** is an email from Eddie Copenhaver to me regarding this flooding. In the email, will see that he is asking for the TOA to install an asphalt berm on Hagy Street at Preston Street. He provides photos and a link to videos.

There is a similar asphalt berm on Hagy Street off of Preston that is adjacent to his property line. This was installed many years ago by town staff, back when Mr. Copenhaver's mother lived there. This was installed to keep the water from running into the wall that is also on his property, just after the grass swale.

In one of his visits to Town Hall, I offered to remove the asphalt berm that was in place as he had indicated that it was not needed. If you study the water flow, you can see that the existing berm only exacerbates the lack of stormwater absorption by pushing it further down towards the homes on Hagy Street. The asphalt berm prohibits the water from entering the grassy swale to get absorbed into the earth. At the time, he agreed that we could take it off but has since changed his mind. We have not touched it.

Part of this correspondence is my response to him.

After this email was sent, Mr. Copenhaver came by Town Hall a couple of times repeating his request for the asphalt berm. One of his comments was that he would contact the media while intimating that we were not doing anything.

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In order to fully examine this issue, I scheduled a meeting with Mr. Copenhaver, town staff from Public Works and Matt Lane from The Lane Group. At the meeting, Mr. Copenhaver described the problem much like he has done at our council meetings on 10-03-2023, 10-19-2023, 11-13-2023 and 12-04-2023. We listened to Mr. Copenhaver but also told him that the TOA cannot just go add things that may exacerbate a stormwater issue.

The attached **Memo 9.6.23** is the engineer's report from The Lane Group to town staff and to Mr. Copenhaver. This has photos attached that are the same as what Council was given last night. If you look closely, you can see the

**Letter - Hagy Street at Preston 112023** is a letter from me to the property owner of record for the two properties on Hagy Street that Mr. Copenhaver has mentioned in his comments. Note that the owner did not acknowledge my letter. To date, the only person to express concern about this stormwater issue is Mr. Copenhaver.

Due to Mr. Copenhaver's comments at the 11-13-2023 council meeting, one where he attributed suggestions from The Lane Group to me personally, I scheduled for Matt Lane to present at the council meeting. The file **Scanned from Xerox Multifunction Printer** is the elevation study that The Lane Group did for this area. This was referenced last night several times. Note that this is exceedingly detailed with its measurements.

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As a matter of practice, when the TOA receives a complaint about flooding, we go by the area and take a look at the location. We do not make physical changes to the roadway or stormwater system without having a credentialed engineer study the issue and make a recommendation as to remedy. If the TOA made any changes and this further amplified a stormwater issue, the TOA would be liable for the damages. As such, we are very careful with this type of issue.

Stormwater on private property is not something that the Town of Abingdon can address with public resources. We can put berms on roadsides as long as enough right-of-way exists and the engineers deem it an acceptable solution to a specific problem.

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For an attributed quote from me:

"Stormwater runoff issues are serious ones that often impact many homes. When we receive these types of concerns and there is no imminent threat, we take a very cautious and thorough approach before implementing any type of remediation efforts."

**If you have any questions, please let me know.**

Mike

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Mike Cochran, *Town Manager*

**Town of Abingdon**

PO Box 789

Abingdon, Virginia 24212

*"Building bridges in the community, one handshake at a time."*

FBINA-246 Session