

Volume of Berm Lake Increased for Flood Control 11/15/23



Noticing heavy rain can overwhelm the drain in front of the West Entrance, with ensuing flooding inside the Meeting House, a series of efforts have occurred to prevent water flowing in the door, cascading down the stairs, and moving on to the edge of the sanctuary as well as into Fellowship Hall . Meanwhile, elsewhere, the water in past years was simultaneously flowing into the external office door .

What to do?

The channel through the lawn in front of the office has been deepened to better remove water in that vicinity to the catch basin under the Kousa Dogwood. The west drain has been restructured and is kept clean, and a berm was created initially to retain water flooding down toward the drain from the entire front lawn. It seems to have been working reasonably well.!

During the heavy thunder shower rains of this summer, close observation showed the west drain was able to function at capacity with all the water flowing from adjacent blacktop areas, but when a continuous chain of thunder storms flooded the entire lawn area, as the water rose over the berm, the drain capacity was exceeded and the ensuing flood raised the water level of the whirlpool above the drain until water flooded into the west entrance, and beyond....

The berm lake water storage, therefore, prevents overwhelming the West drain as long as the retained lake is not overflowing. We point out here, there is a one inch pipe draining the lake, so the slow escape of the water in the ensuing day or two successfully returns the lawn to normal status.

The series of photos above shows our recently completed efforts to increase the volume of water retained by the now higher berm. We believe this may well “buy” us another twenty minutes during heavy cloud bursts, and thereby save the wet vac emergency crew a large amount of work vacuuming up water and drying the carpets.

The largest 2023 summer series of extraordinary thunder storms dumped five inches of water at the Meeting House in perhaps two to three hours. Parts of Trout Brook Road and Albany Avenue went under. We believe, had the Berm been somewhat higher, the water retained in the berm lake could have saved us the ensuing cleanup and drying of wet carpets.

And, of note, no water entered the office!. So that past improved drainage effort was a success.

Will the improved Berm and larger reservoir prevent future flooding?

Time will tell.

And, that is the rest of the story.
