

Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)

From: Karpen, Brian (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)
Subject: 314 Wyoming St E - Retaining Wall

Marcia:

I got your message regarding the retaining wall at 314 Wyoming St E. I likely won't be able to make it out to do an actual inspection of the wall until sometime next week. I have taken a look at the photos in the system provided by the fire inspector.

Based on the photos I would say that this retaining wall could be termed as having failed, based on deflection as well as the degradation of the wall. Having said that as with all things of this nature it is difficult to impossible to place an exact timeline on full collapse. The portion of the wall the pictures show is in a bad state, however, it appears there are no structures above or below the wall at this location that would be affected by a collapse. There is a shed further down that may be affected and from google maps there appears to be a garage as well, but the pictures do not show those areas of the wall.

Again, it is hard to speculate on a timeline of full collapse in cases like this, but it is likely that the wall is stable as is until the next freeze/thaw cycles further push the soil behind and accelerate cracking and deterioration of the wall material itself. It is possible that a rain event may increase pressure on the wall, but I would speculate that it would need to be an extreme event to have a large effect. As this wall is between two back yards of private residences and not near a public right of way, I would think the danger to any individual is rather low. Because of all of these factors I think the repair timeline is only pressured by the next freeze/thaw cycle next winter, it seems reasonable that 90 days could be allowed to put some plan in place to repair, remove, or rebuild this wall. Though, of course, a shorter timeline is acceptable as well.

It is probably beyond my area of expertise to speculate as to where this wall lies in relation to any property lines.

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