



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Construction on the Fairfield Inn on U.S. Highway 123 has been halted after a "small collapse" of a retaining wall after heavy rains last week.

Construction halted on new Seneca hotel

Moulder believes retaining wall collapse can be repaired

BY NORM CANNADA

THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Construction on the Fairfield Inn on U.S. Highway 123 in Seneca has been halted after a "small collapse" at the base of a retaining wall on the hotel property after heavy rains last week.

"Unfortunately, we were required to momentarily cease all construction activity on the site until we can obtain information from their structural

engineer that the job site is safe, due to a failure in the retaining wall that was used to level the property," city administrator Scott Moulder said after Tuesday's Seneca City Council meeting. "What we can tell you at this point is the area of the failure does not appear in the area where the hotel foundation sits, but until the engineer can provide more thorough investigation into it, we

SEE HOTEL, PAGE A2

but we haven't heard from others.

"We want to be sure we are representative and doing the best job that we possibly can of reaching out and meeting people where they are to get it."

The steering committee was formed as part of the temporary halt to student housing projects approved by Clemson City Council. The 12-member committee contains city council representatives, business owners and community members, and part of their job during the six-month time construction

means of getting we have in the worry that we group that's far that I'm native of everyo

Chad Carso a lot of difference the vision for something we

"A small group committee can't represent the whole we have this a moratorium

HOTEL: Construction was stopped Friday

FROM PAGE A1

are not going to allow any more work."

Moulder said construction stopped Friday after the issue was discovered following heavy rains on Thursday.

"At the base of the retaining wall there was a small collapse where it sunk and created gaps in the wall, so it did not hold in its design form," he said. "No rocks went into the lake. No retaining wall blocks went into the lake. Everything is still maintained on site, but the structural integrity has been compromised at the bottom."

Moulder said "we don't know" if there is a concern about the structure of the building.

"That's what we're waiting on the structural engineer to tell us," he said. "It's not our job to determine that type of structural integrity. The license and stamp of that structural engineer is what provides the authority over that. We just provide the information they need and monitor and make sure he does his job."

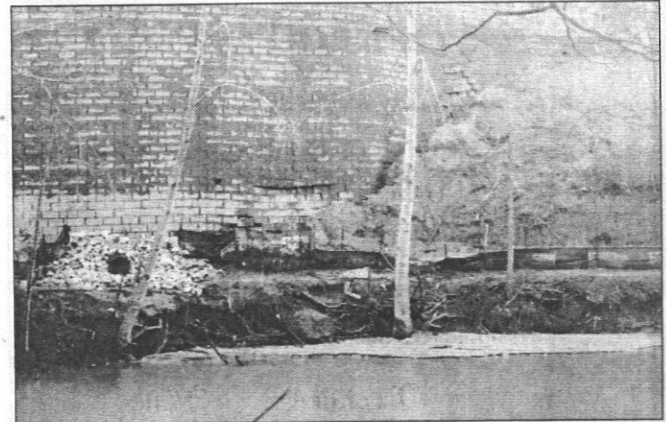
He added city staff has been on the site "every day" since last week's rain, and he believes the problem "can potentially be fixed."

"We're confident an engineer can potentially fix it without disturbing the hotel," Moulder said.

Moulder talked about the decision to stop construction in response to a concern about mud and silt falling into the lake from the site from Seneca resident Dave Arnold, a retired builder who lives nearby.

Moulder told Arnold during the meeting work would not continue until the structural engineer certifies a plan to fix the problem. He added representatives with Duke Energy and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control have been notified about the concerns Arnold addressed about mud and silt in the lake, and those agencies have responsibility over that issue.

Arnold said the issue is "the second time that the wall has failed to retain the erosion into the lake."



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Seneca city administrator Scott Moulder said local resident Dave Arnold went to city officials with concerns about mud and silt falling into the lake from the site of construction on a new hotel on U.S. Highway 123.