

# FAIRFIELD FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD

## SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday January 28, 2021 2:00 pm

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: IN LIGHT OF COVID-19, AND PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 7B, THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY.

### MINUTES

#### AGENDA ITEM 1: Discussion of FECB questions with CIRCA

The meeting was called to order via ZOOM at 2:00 PM by Chairwoman Becky Bunnell.

Attending were Becky Bunnell, Dick Dmochowski (Fld. FECB) Bill Hurley, Laura Pulie (Fld. Engineering Dept.), Emmeline Harrigan (Fld. P&Z), James and Jennifer O'Donnell, John Truscinski and Yaprak Onat (CIRCA)

Chairwoman Bunnell noted Fairfield's desire to use resources of CIRCA to inform our local mitigation planning. Our hope is to identify an applicable framework with minimal financial investment which then could be fleshed out by studies and plans. For instance, could CIRCA broker some form of a study by Grad Students to look at items like erosion along the Fairfield Beach Road Peninsula?

CIRCA noted that they work with contracted Engineering firms such as Dewberry and Milone & McBroom. Their focus is to identify Regional Benefits - recognizing that their funding is by HUD so there is a bias towards projects that have a TOD or affordable housing component. They see their goal as defining 8-15 Pilot Projects across NH & Fld. Counties spending about \$75K on each.

Mention was made of Army Corps projects and CIRCA observed that ACOE takes a BIG STICK approach; theirs are not subtle solutions – that's where CIRCA comes in. CIRCA looks to piece out the components and then prioritize them.

We talked a bit about the concept of *Zone of Shared Risk (ZSR)* for instance, a breach through the Penfield Beach property would flood “a thousand” residences in our coastal flood plain immediately to the north. While not directly at the location of the event, all those homes are in a common **ZSR**. Ms. Onat has done modeling of **ZSRs** which Fairfield could avail ourselves of by sending her some particular parameters. We similarly talked about modeling CIRCA has available for Wave Height and Surge Height that could be applicable to get a profile of how storms impact our direct shorefront.

We talked about the status of our project (currently underway) to design specific mitigating storage areas for upland Rooster River (**RR**) Flood Waters. This led to conversations about the

small neighborhood in the bend of the **RR** immediately north of I 95 – Rutland / Camden area. That could be a focus for an investigation as it is a moderate income, multi-family neighborhood (i.e.: HUD)

We talked about the idea of a Town Resiliency Fund as a vehicle to accumulate seed money for mitigation project design and matching funds for any Grants that may be offered. That vehicle is currently authorized by legislation and in use by a (still small) number of CT Towns. Likewise, some form of “Stormwater Utility” fee/ tax could be a source of mitigation funds; the legislature would have to authorize such a fee/tax. Noted in passing was the GC3 (**G**overnor’s **C**ouncil on **C**limate **C**hange) Interim Report that was released 1/15/21. It has comments about Stormwater Utility.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard Dmochowski*

Richard Dmochowski

FECB Secretary

Minutes as approved at the 2/16/2021 FECB meeting