

MINUTES

FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD MEETING Tuesday February 16, 2021

In light of COVID Restrictions, this meeting was conducted virtually on ZOOM. A copy of the audio recording will be available for some time in the files and documents section of the FECB Webpage, here: <https://www.fairfieldct.org/fecb/files>

Members Present: B. Bunnell (chair) D. Lamberty, R. Dmochowski, P. Landino, P. Wiswell
Others: P. O'Brien (recording Secretary)
Meeting called to order at 7:00

AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 1: Approval of January 19, 2021 DRAFT minutes

- A) The draft minutes were discussed, minor changes agreed on and Minutes, as amended unanimously approved. At this point, P. O'Brien left meeting having other obligations. P. Wiswell joined.
- B) The Draft Minutes of the 1/28/21 meeting with CIRCA were added to the agenda and discussed at this point. They were unanimously approved as submitted.

ITEM 2: Review of FECB master plan

Finally received additional costing detail from ACOE and are overlaying that on our section-by-section Master Plan with an eye towards presenting a 2021 Revised Master Plan to the BOS. Various modifications to the Plan Elements were discussed. B. Bunnell had a discussion with GZA concerning the possibility / cost of their firm doing an analysis of the plan sections with some modeling and a view towards the permitting potential of the sections. They were given the OK to discuss our situation with both CIRCA and ACOE to develop 'background'.

The BOS had a review of the Capital Plan on 2/8. The Flood Mitigation items including the (ultimately) \$33MM South Benson Pump Station and Storm Sewer project seemed positively received.

ITEM 3: 2015 FECB plan update Strat plan letter

The Strategic Plan Committee issued a Draft Report in November 2020 which was recently presented to the First Selectwoman and will be presented to the BOS in the near future. It did not make as much of a point about the 3,000 houses in the coastal flood plain being at risk of frequently *flooding in 30 years* as we would have hoped. Consensus is that FECB needs to ask that they include stronger language that calls for a strategic analysis of this neighborhood's future. They did use the word resiliency in many places but did not link it to flooding. R. Dmochowski will draft a letter to them for consideration at the March meeting.

ITEM 4: Feedback from James O'Donnell and Circa conversation

See the 1/28 meeting minutes for details. We need a follow-up conversation regarding their ability to do initial modeling for a few general shoreline ‘what ifs?’.

ITEM 5: Additional old or new business as may come before the Board

- A) R. Dmochowski raised the topic of “Stormwater Utility” where there is a fee is assessed to properties such that those monies fund improvements in dealing with both inland rain and coastal storm flooding. Such a revenue source might be used to fund a Town Resiliency Fund
- B) P. Wiswell asked what our role might be when neighbors oppose ‘inland’ development based on the site ‘flooding’. Consensus was that the Inland Wetlands Commission could contribute to such a conversation
- C) WWTP work is still progressing and will increase pace as soon as the weather breaks.
- D) The Pine Creek Dredging *neighborhood initiative group* has made an initial presentation to the First Selectwoman. The scope would be limited to the entry area of Pine Creek and not extend very far up-the-creek. Unofficial feedback suggests her guidance was to prepare an application to DEEP for a Certificate of Compliance and send it to Bill Hurley for the Engineering Department’s agreement. The Town would then likely agree to its submission on Fairfield’s behalf. There was no commitment of assisting the project with funds.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Dmochowski,

FECB Secretary

These minutes were approved at the 4/20/21 meeting of the FECB