

Regular Meeting of Flood & Erosion Control Board
Tuesday February 18, 7:00 p.m.
Sullivan Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Attendees: B. Bunnell, R. Dmochowski, D. Lamberty, P. Landino, P. Wiswell

Meeting started at 7:00pm.

ITEM 1: Approval of 1/21/20 DRAFT Minutes

R. Dmochowski suggested amendments on items 2 & 3.

P. Wiswell motioned to approve the minutes as amended. R. Dmochowski seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 2: Update and discussion of the Project List items

R. Dmochowski handed out the Master Project List and B. Bunnell gave out the active list/5 year funding plan, which was reviewed first. The FECB will be asking the town to add these plans to the capital waterfall plan to fund through the next 5 years. B. Bunnell has requested a meeting with First Selectwoman Kupchick to review. The list was created with the Engineering Department and includes projects that are already complete, being funded currently and projects the FECB would like to put into capital expenditures. There are 3 phases to all projects; study phase, design/permitting phase and implementation phase. All of the phases cost money. The list was reviewed and discussed. The first item discussed was the FEMA flood zone map near ash creek which the FECB has requested be revised. When this is done, it should reduce flood insurance rates for some residents from Riverside, Turney and Jennings Beach. B. Bunnell also talked about raising the berm from the Ash Creek open space to the boat basin. More design work needs to be done, but this has not been funded yet. The South Benson pump station is pending approval in the capital plan. The Beach Nourishment/Engineered Beaches is an annual cost of \$100K. They are still waiting on permits from the ACOE. The Penfield Beach Resiliency geo-tube Dune is not funded but will be requested for the 2022 budget. The Penfield Beach to Waste Water Treatment Plant Hardening wall has not been approved as it is a design challenge and will need several options and extensive review with residents. FECB added an item which was mentioned in the preliminary POCD outline, to explore rebuilding Penfield Reef. This is also not currently funded. Waste Water Treatment Plant has been funded at \$7.5Mm. The Fairfield Peninsula project will raise elevations on the road to stop flooding. This will allow residents and emergency vehicles to access houses instead of being stuck due to flooded areas of

the street. FECB is also proposing to reinstate the higher height for bulkheads along FBR which would involve conversations and negotiations with DEEP. This would not be a town expense and the residents on the peninsula will pay for it. Another project out of POCD is to explore groin improvements and wave reduction options. There are some downtown area projects as well; the Sherman Green Detention Basin is complete. The railroad bridges need a plan to keep from flooding. This is currently proposed for 2023. The Rooster River area has also been studied and detailed designs are in progress. They are hoping to mitigate 6 sites. B. Bunnell asked the board to look at the list and decide what are the most important projects. They will be discussed at the next meeting.

ITEM 3: Review of FECB master plan: five year funding plan

This item was discussed with Item 2.

ITEM 4: Discussion of future funding mechanisms for Fairfield Resiliency Measures

Statutes were handed out. Public act 19-77 was passed in July 2019, that allows municipalities to establish Resiliency Funds and put the funds into investments that earn interest the same as a pension fund. B. Bunnell would like to propose this to the town. She explained that the Town of Branford established a resiliency fund. They took \$1Mm from the general fund for resiliency. Every year they add \$300K. B. Bunnell will propose a preliminary meeting with Selectman Flynn, R. Dmochowski and Jim Finch from Branford.

ITEM 5: Discussion on FECB size including potential for a Resiliency Committee

B. Bunnell expressed that if the committee had more than 5 members, they could get more done. The question remains, should the FECB add members or should a Resiliency Committee be formed and the FECB would be a subsidiary of the new committee. The committee would be for all resiliency, not just flooding. The committee would include town employees, public and even the FECB and would find ways to fund projects. The committee could report directly to the BOS. As part of this, a newly formed resiliency committee would be responsible for reviewing the CRS floodplain management plans. B. Bunnell said that Fairfield has a Hazard Mitigation Master Plan group and in the most recent review of the CRS plan, items that were on their plan had been removed without discussion with the FECB. B. Bunnell, plans to write a letter outlining which items the FECB is concerned might have been removed from the plan too soon without fully mitigating the initiative. It was proposed that going forward, a Resiliency committee would work with other town groups and discuss what items should be taken off or kept on the list.

ITEM 6: Update on FECB Newsletter

B. Bunnell will update the newsletter and make flood prevention the main theme.

ITEM 7: Additional old or new business as may come before the Board

R. Dmochowski said he went to the 2nd job meeting of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Berm Project. UI wasn't there and they have to move poles so the dirt can be piled. The job will be completed in September. He also talked about the Pump Station elevations in the flood plain, some are in flood areas and could be compromised. These areas should be watched by FECB: 63 Mill Hill Terr, 173 Center St, 1609 Fairfield Beach Rd, 135 Pine Creek and 247 Willow. R. Dmochowski will request an update from DPW for the next FECB meeting.

He also talked about the state statute and how it reads, "there will be a FECB according to state statute 25-84. They will have powers and duties per 25-85 and 25-94", meaning the board can bond and take property. Those statutes are not overtly called out in our town charter and it should be revised to reflect the state statutes. P. Wiswell will read the town charter and make a revision proposal to the BOS.

Mr. Dmochowski advised the board that Kyle Fournier told him she did not want to continue as the FECB Recording Secretary. Discussion among the Board and Pru O'Brien ensued and Pru will continue to serve as our Recording Secretary going forward.

ITEM 7: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien

Recording Secretary