

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: IN LIGHT OF COVID-19, AND
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 7B, THE TOWN IS
CONDUCTING THIS MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY.**

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Please Note:

- ✓ If you call to listen, you will not be heard by the committee members and there will be no live public comment. The public is encouraged to send their comments before or after the meeting to the following email: jcarpenter@fairfieldct.org with FECB in the subject line.
- ✓ As you would in a public meeting, please include your name and address with your comment.
- ✓ All comments received and verified will be included in the minutes with your name and address. Your email address will be excluded.
- ✓ Agenda/minutes can be found here: <https://www.fairfieldct.org/fecb/minutes>
- ✓ Meeting Recordings can be found here: <https://fairfieldct.org/meetingrecordings>

**FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday November 17, 2020
7:00 pm
Via Teleconference
Fairfield, CT 06824**

MEETING MINUTES- Approved at 12.15.20 meeting.

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

ITEM 1 ON CALL: Approval of October 20, 2020 DRAFT minutes

D. Lamberty made a suggestion to change wording in Item 3. R. Dmochowski made suggestions to change wording in Item 2. *R. Dmochowski made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/20/20 as amended. D. Lamberty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

ITEM 2 ON CALL: Review of FECB master plan

B. Bunnell told the board that the town has applied for 3 BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grants for Rooster River detention basins, Jennings Beach Pump Station and Riverside culvert and tide gates. The applications are due by the end of January and the grant comes out of FEMA funds. Conservation Director, Brian Carey told R. Dmochowski that construction plans and specifications for RFP are ready to go out to bid on the Riverside project of the replacement of the bridge and tide gates. Mr. Dmochowski looked on the town purchasing website, but didn't see it. There will also be a meeting to update residents on the Rooster River project Thursday at 7:00pm. It will be a virtual meeting, so there will be no public comment. They will be asking for feedback from interested residents to submit answers to a series of questions on the website. You can access the link to the presentation on First Selectwoman Kupchick's weekly update. R. Dmochowski was going to put together an addendum to overlay the capital budget items that Brian Carey and B. Bunnell put together. He will send it to the FECB.

After a delay in the Fairfield Beach Road survey project it is back on. The results are expected in mid-winter and the plan in the spring.

Update on the Pine Creek dredging initiative by certain FBR residents: in 2013 the dredging was roughly \$500K. FEMA paid the bulk of it through Super storm Sandy funds. The town would probably not contribute much (if any) money to this future project because it isn't part of a navigable waterway. If the residents of FBR want it done, it might have to be paid for by those residents. Conservation Director, Brian Carey said he would be willing to put together a bidding request to engineering firms to survey the creek, although DEEP might be willing to use the data from the 2013 application. This would be necessary to obtain permits. The town would have to sponsor the project. The town might consider being lead applicant for grants and facilitate funding for the project by bonds paid over 20 years by the assessment of residents benefitting from it. Dredging the creek is a repetitive operation because the wind tides and waves will bring sand back into the creek. People in the prior meeting were in support of it, but not if there is no plan to keep it from filling up again. It is expensive to have to dredge it every 3-5 years. Toward the mouth of the creek there are a lot of sand and shells and as you go upstream there is a larger component of muck and mire that, if dredged, cannot be put on the beach or into the sound. Cross sections were done in 2012 before the 2013 dredging, but the copy of the engineering report that R. Dmochowski got did not have the cross sections, R., Dmochowski will ask Bill Hurley if he has them.

ITEM 3 on CALL: Update on discussions for a Town Resiliency Fund

B. Bunnell sent a draft proposal to the FECB and to Selectman Tom Flynn. Mr. Flynn suggested making a 20 year financial plan. B. Bunnell has been working closely with Jim Finch, head of Finance in Branford, CT. She explored whether they can bond the projects and put money into the fund to earn interest until it is released for the project itself. Mr. Finch said there could be tax implications. Branford started with a \$1MM bond the first year and then submitted \$250K each year with an increment of 2% interest each year. B. Bunnell will propose \$750K to start and speak with the Finance Department regarding possible tax issues. Per Selectman Flynn's suggestion, she also reached out to Chief Administrative Officer, Tom Bremer, but has not heard back from him. She will keep trying. B. Bunnell also told the board that there is a cost to administer this kind of funding. DEEP has a committee called Finance and Funding Resiliency Working Group, the Governor's counsel to climate change made up of people from the insurance, finance and bonding industries. In the 80 page report from their September meeting, there is a list of every grant available to towns. She will forward the list to Laura Pulie and Bill Hurley. She will also send the link to the full report to the FECB.

ITEM 4 on CALL: Election of Officers for 2021

R. Dmochowski wanted to congratulate B. Bunnell on her reappointment for another five year term. D. Lamberty also commented that B. Bunnell was doing a great job as FECB Chairwoman. *R. Dmochowski made a motion to continue with the same officers in 2021. P. Landino seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Becky Bunnell – Chair

Don Lamberty – Vice Chair

Richard (Dick) Dmochowski – Secretary

ITEM 5 on CALL: Approval of FECB meeting dates for 2021 – See below for recommendation

B. Bunnell posted the recommended dates below for the 3rd Tuesday of each month in 2021. There were no conflicts with holidays. *R. Dmochowski did recommend that the December 21, 2021 meeting date be moved to Tuesday, December 14, 2021 and made a motion to approve the meeting dates presented for the FECB 2021. D. Lamberty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

2021 FECB meeting dates

January 19th

February 16th

March 16th

April 20th

May 18th

June 15th

July 20th

August 17th

September 21st

October 19th

November 16th

December 14st

ITEM 6 ON CALL: Additional old or new business as may come before the Board

R. Dmochowski gave an update regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant project. The project is still going slowly. The contamination sign off by DEEP is dragging. They were tested and there is no PCB. They are getting an onsite portable filtration system.

With no other updates or new business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary