

**FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2014**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held a meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 in Parsons Government Complex, Conference Room A. Chairman Zabinski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Michael Zabinski, Chairman
Patrick Tokarz, Vice Chairman
Thom Bach
John Casey
Drew Berndlmaier (7:09 p.m.)

Also Present

Gary Wassmer, City Engineer
Chris Saley, Public Works Director
Michael Casey, BOA Liaison
Meghan McGaffin, GIS Coordinator

II. Public Participation

None.

III. Consideration of Minutes of October 14, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Tokarz and Mr. Bach made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Correspondence

None.

Mr. Casey and Mr. Bach made and seconded a motion to re-order the agenda and bring forward item V. A.
Motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business:

A) Program for Public Information

Ms. Megan McGaffin introduced herself as the City's GIS Coordinator. She explained the Community Rating System (CRS). She also provided the Board with the components of the program. She continued with an explanation of the Program for Public Information (handout). She explained it is a planning document that includes outreach and education. She continued with an explanation of the handout and the role of the Flood and Erosion Control Board. She also referenced the Hazard Mitigation Plan. She suggested public workshops for sea level rise, real estate agents, etc. She also spoke of the ISO rating which the city hopes to increase to a 7

Chairman Zabinski asked which agency does the scoring for the city.

Ms. McGaffin explained it is done through ISO and that they have a matrix of various instructions of how evaluations are conducted. She stated it all comes through FEMA. She also commented the City have to recertify their CRA rating each year. She stated if this Board adopts the plan an ISO representative would come down to Milford and begin review.

Chairman Zabinski asked about the scoring.

Ms. McGaffin stated they are hoping to get to a 7, but that it is quite an involved process.

Mr. Bach spoke of those homeowners in and around Wildemere Beach and Laurel Beach whose homes are not elevated and pay excessive amounts for flood insurance. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Zabinski asked about town meetings with the various condominium associations.

Ms. McGaffin stated that is the type of activities that need to get done and would be something for this Board to consider.

Mr. Bach spoke of the importance of having a list of the presidents of the various associations. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Zabinski asked McGaffin what she would like to see this Board do besides the adoption of the plan.

Ms. McGaffin stated she stated someone from the Committee should be attending these meetings, i.e. Bill Richards, etc.

Mr. Casey asked about the membership. He asked about the reprehensive of the flood plan manager.

Ms. McGaffin stated that would be Joe Griffith, but that Mr. Wassmer is certified as a flood plan manager and certainly could fill that role as the liaison. She also spoke about storm surge as part of communication with the community.

Mr. Bach commented about ISO and the process..

Ms. McGaffin stated it is an independent audit. She pointed out a lot of towns don't do it. She stated this is where communication with realtors and contractors would be important.

Chairman Zabinski suggested the Board review the information provided tonight by Ms. McGaffin so that the Board could consider adoption of the plan at next month's meeting. He stated he could envision some type of a program being created for each of the beach associations. He questioned if it should be this Board's responsibility to create such programs.

Mr. Wassmer stated he is a member of Flood Plan Managers Association. He stated a Connecticut association was recently created and that they became a member of the National Flood Plan Managers Association. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Casey asked if Milone and MacBroom were doing other components of the CRS.

Mr. Wassmer stated they are making recommendations to the City.

Mr. Casey referenced the workshops mentioned in the handout.

Chairman Zabinski stated he felt this was a major contribution this Board could make, but he was unsure how to proceed at this point. Discussion ensued.

V. Unfinished Business:

A) Update - RE: Drainage Projects

Mr. Wassmer stated the Merwin Avenue drainage project has been reduced in scope and that the work would be done in house for upgrades to the drainage system. He also reported the Engineering Division has worked on the survey and analysis of the existing system to determine the existing capacity and peak runoff from various storms. Mr. Wassmer reported they are past the preliminary stage but not at design as they are waiting for storm manholes to be uncovered to be analyzed. He also reported the projects which they applied for grants are still in limbo as they have not heard from the Department of Housing. Mr. Wassmer stated he would reach out to them tomorrow and send an email to the Board with an update.

With regard to Milford Point Road, Mr. Wassmer stated if this project does not receive a grant, it would be submitted under the State LOTCIP Program. He also reported they were going to expand the project to include more of Milford Point Road.

Mr. Wassmer stated he and Mr. Saley drove around the City today during the rain looking at various flooding issues.

Mr. Saley commented they went to every beach checking on flooding. He stated there were some areas of concern. He noted a possible blockage on Cherry Street, Brewster Road and others. He stated Bayview Beach was fairly submerged while others were dry. He also stated during a recent high tide there was a lot of water on Lawrence and Field Court. He stated they also looked at Milford Point Road and feel that too can be done in-house.

Mr. Wassmer stated the underpass of Gulf Street is currently being designed for drainage upgrades due to flooding. He stated it would include larger pipes and CB's with deep sumps. He also reported the cross sections of Woodmont Beach have been completed for the fall of 2014 and pointed out this is a requirement of the Local Cooperative Agreement (LCA) between the USACE and the City and Woodmont.

Mr. Berndlmaier asked about the outlets to Long Island Sound.

Mr. Wassmer stated there is a chamber on Point Beach Drive they could look at.

Mr. Berndlmaier questioned the outlets and the flap gates working properly. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Zabinski asked about the grant that was to be decided sometime in October/November.

Mr. Wassmer reiterated they are still waiting to hear. He stated he would make some calls tomorrow.

Chairman Zabinski asked if any of the bonding money had been spent.

Mr. Saley stated they are waiting to hear on the grant money. He did mention he had a discussion with Mike Ludwig. He is going to go back and look at this scope. He also spoke about the potential of doing a breakwater in that area.

Mr. Berndlmaier commented he did not want to forfeit any chance for monies and that they needed to make sure they follow the necessary criteria.

Mr. Wassmer spoke about the Naugatuck Avenue drainage property. He reported in the fall the water company relocated their lines. The hope is DOT will begin work sometime in spring. It is finally beginning to move along, adding it has been a long time coming with the process of the state.

B) Update - RE: Coastal Resiliency

Chairman Zabinski asked if there is a plan in place if all three towns get monies.

Mr. Wassmer stated he is not sure, but did speak briefly with the town engineer in Branford. He stated the city is working with Branford and Madison on a \$150K grant and with COG on a \$750K grant, both of which are for Coastal Resiliency projects.

Mr. Casey pointed out there is regional money and town money but it seems the scope is not clear how the monies will be spent.

Mr. Wassmer also reported the Mayor has been speaking with the Council of Governments.

Mr. Bach stated it is important this Board get feedback and that communication is very important. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bach questioned if there might be minutes available from those meetings.

Mr. Wassmer stated he would check.

C) Update - RE: Bylaws for the Board

Mr. Tokarz stated if they follow Roberts Rules of Order they would be fine.

Chairman Zabinski stated he believed the reason Mr. Bach had originated bylaws for the Board was because they were interested in rules, the Board's charge, etc

Mr. Bach stated he questioned the role of this board and its boundaries, etc. He stated he had done some research through other towns, but was referred them back to the State. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Casey and Mr. Tokarz made and seconded a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

D) Update RE: RFQ – Study of Milford’s entire oceanfront

Chairman stated when monies are in place they could finally get started on this. He stated it would remain on the agenda.

VI. New Business

B) Acceptance of the 2015 meeting schedule

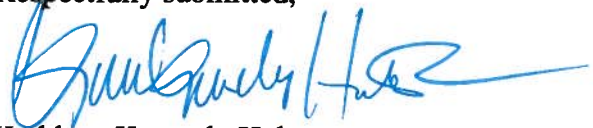
The Board adopted the 2015 meeting schedule as presented. The schedule will be filed with the City Clerk’s Office.

VII. Adjournment

Being no further business, Mr. Tokarz and Mr. Bach made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen Kennedy Huber
Recording Secretary