**FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 12, 2021**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2021, via Zoom teleconference. Chairman Zabinski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**I. Roll Call:**

Board Members Present Also Present

Michael Zabinski, Chairman S. Johnson, Asst. PW Director

Andy Bevilacqua Ald. C. Gaynor

Megan Sloan

Thom Bach

John Casey

**II. Election of Officers**

Ms. Sloan and Mr. Bevilacqua moved to nominate Mr. Zabinski to continue serving as chairman.

There being no further nominations for chairman, nominations were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Zabinski stated he would entertain nominations for Vice Chairman.

Ms. Sloan and Mr. Bevilacqua moved to nominate Mr. Bach to continue serving as Vice Chairman.

There being no further nominations for Vice Chairman, nominations were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Public Participation:**

Carole Klingele – 160 Broadway – asked the progress of the Wildemere Beach project and where they stood with meeting with representatives from Army Corp, DEEP and Fisheries.

Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao - 38 Hilldale Court – stated she was here to listen to information regarding the Morningside Reventment project.

Gino Tarantino - 170 Broadway – stated he has continually asked about the Wildemere Beach/Walnut Beach project and that there has been no progressive movement forward. He stated he was here tonight to again ask for a status. He also asked what the neighborhood could do to move this project along.

**IV. Correspondence**

None.

**V. Consideration of Minutes.**

Mr. Bevilacqua and Mr. Bach made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 regular meeting with the following changes:

Chairman Zabinski stated his name was duplicated under Roll Call.

Mr. Bach referred to the top of p. 2 sentence 2nd sentence, 2nd paragraph. He stated the sentence should have stated the area has been exacerbated by the storms over the years. He stated this community has been waiting for far too long and just could not afford to wait any longer. He stressed the need to move forward.

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Unfinished Business.**

A) Update: Drainage Projects and CDBG Projects:

Bayview Beach – Mr. Johnson stated the only update since the last meeting is they are in the process of recommending portable pumps that have been specked out by the engineers including Fuss & O’Neil. He stated they are looking to finalize some the details of the grant. Mr. Johnson also reported Bayview is performing well, with two minor problems due to the upgraded wooden groin. He explained it is building up with more sand, so they are in the process of looking at options due to it blocking the value and sand in the pumps.

Mr. Bach - recalled the pump station was redesigned and questioned if there were monies left over.

Mr. Johnson explained there was paving, and other work associated with the project. He explained why they did not go with the elevated pump station. A brief discussion ensued.

Point Beach – Mr. Johnson reported he received comments from DEEP who has stated they need additional information. The plans that were submitted are based on prior outfalls that existed previously. He stated it needs to be extended above the shoaling lines. He stated there were no updates on Elaine Road and Atwater Street.

Calf Pen/Beachland – Mr. Johnson reported they have submitted through Fuss & O’Neil, to Army Corp a vegetation update report. He also stated once the phragmites are under control, likely sometime in the spring that vegetation would be planted.

Milford Point Road – Mr. Johnson reported this just needs to go out to bid. He stated he would be submitting a request to the Connecticut Housing for a 1-year extension. The hope is still to get it out to bid in February,

Morningside Road – Mr. Johnson reported they continue working with Race on this project.

Gulf Street/Welches Point Road/Bluff area – Mr. Johnson reported they are still looking into funding for the project.

Wildemere/Walnut Beach – Mr. Johnson reported he prepared a draft email to go to Senator Maroney. He also explained his discussions with the engineering firms. Mr. Johnson stated he had a conversation today regarding permitting, etc. He stated he would be asking Sen. Maroney’s office to respond. Mr. Johnson stated in addition to the plans he went through his records and plans and asked John McGrand to review his files as well to make sure they agree on the key documents and communications between all parties.

Chairman Zabinski stated he and Mr. Bach has been working with Public Works and believe they need to meet with DEEP and Fisheries with an extensive meeting that will take place the last Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. This project needs to be committed and everyone needs to be on the same page. Chairman Zabinski stated in preparation of that Tuesday meeting he said he would be meeting at city hall in a face-to-face meeting with Director Saley, Assistant Director Johnson, and Mr. Bach with the engineer from GI, via zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to complete an agenda for that Tuesday meeting. The hope is this Board will get closer to an understanding of what Milford can construct.

Mr. Bach commented this has been the goal for several years, with this being the latest attempt to make that happen.

Chairman Zabinski stated he would like to have the Board contribute with their thoughts and brainstorm the agenda for that meeting.

Mr. Casey stated the talk should be general about what the Flood and Erosion Control Board is trying to do, which is control flooding, beach erosion, etc. He stated the solution this Board proposed was that dune. Mr. Casey stated a wider beach and stable dune will help control these things. He also stated this Board needs to know that the rationale is for no allowing this to be done, as well as the cost benefits.

Mr. Bevilacqua spoke about work that was done at Woodmont Beach approximately 15 years where they came in and did a beach replenishment. He stated it was allowed and worked. He stated he is trying to wrap his head around and understand what changed. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Johnson stated Army Corp and National Marine Fisheries were concerned about the placement of the dune. He also mentioned the importance of getting the proper permits.

Crescent Beach – Mr. Johnson reported this project is still in a permitting mode. He stated he would confirm with Army Corp about the permit and with National Marine Fisheries. He stated a decision will need to be made moving forward with the approved design as permitted and whether the cost is affordable.

Mr. Bach asked who the engineering firm is.

Mr. Johnson stated it is GI and Malone and McBroom.

Mr. Bach suggested they get the opinions from the engineers as to the value of the project.

Mr. Bevilacqua stated this was talked about last meeting and what is the life of the sea wall, what happens during a large storm.

Pelham Street - no report.

Gulf Beach Breakwater - Garcia Tsao Guadalupe interjected stating it was her understanding (CT Department of Housing). She also asked if they were asking for an extension on Morningside Reventment as well.

Mr. Johnson replied yes and explained the details regarding the agreement.

Gulf Beach Breakwater – no report.

B) Update: Resiliency Plan – no report

C) Update: Program for Public Information (PPI) – no report.

**VII. New Business**

None.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bach and Ms. Sloan made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy Recording Secretary