**FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**AUGUST 10, 2021**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, via Zoom teleconference. Chairman Zabinski called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**I. Roll Call**

Board Members Present Also Present

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

Andy Bevilacqua Ald. Connie Gaynor

John Casey

Thom Bach

Ray Manzouri

**II. Public Participation**

David DeLuke – 27 Point Beach Drive – stated the residents on Point Beach Drive have been patient for a long time now waiting for word as to when the project would begin. He stated it is now an urgency due to the upcoming Point Beach Seawall Restoration project slated to begin in November. He stated the Point Beach Improvement Association is looking to coordinate with this Board as they move forward with the project.

Carol Klingele – 160 Broadway – stated she continues to look for an update regarding Wildemere Beach. She stated she is hoping to hear word that something is finally happening.

Gino Tarantino – 170 Broadway – stated he too is looking for information concerning the Wildemere Beach project. He stated he has been attending meetings and hears nothing concrete.

**III. Correspondence**

Letter dated July 1, 2021, from the Point Beach Improvement Association, Jay Pinto, Chairperson of the Association, concerning the upcoming Point Beach Seawall Restoration Project. The secretary read the letter into the record.

**IV. Consideration of Minutes of the March 9, 2021, and April 13, 2021, meetings.**

Mr. Casey and Mr. Bevilacqua made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021, as presented. Motion carried with 1 abstention (Bach).

Mr. Bevilacqua and Mr. Casey made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. Unfinished Business.**

A) Update: Drainage Projects and CDBG Projects:

Assistant Public Works Director Steve Johnson provided summaries of the following projects:

1. Bayview Beach – Assistant Director Johnson reported the project is performing as hoped. He stated they are waiting for the CT Department of Housing to update the financials and that he hoped to have that report at the next meeting.

2. Point Beach – Assistant Director Johnson reported he spoke with Director Saley who has indicated the Point Beach Road/Elaine Road project would not impact the Point Beach Drive project, but he would get word to the Point Beach Improvement Association. He noted Millennium Construction is doing the project and has been in the area doing assessment. Assistant Director Johnson also reported the backflow preventors have not been ordered as they are waiting for the size to be finalized. He went on to explain two other aspects of the project the city is working on. Regarding Richard Street and Morehouse Avenue he said there is a Certificate of Permission (COP) for Richard Street only. He stated he would be applying to DEEP for Morehouse Avenue.

Mr. Bach stated timing is of the essence in this project which has long been discussed by this Board. He recommended Assistant Director Johnson respond to Mr. Pinto as soon as possible.

Mr. DeLuke apologized for the interruption, but stated it was important to know the timeframe and when the City’s application was submitted.

Assistant Director Johnson stated he did not have the file in front of him, but that he would get back to him.

3. Calf Pen/Beachland – Assistant Director Johnson reported they finally achieved one application of the phragmites habitat and have seen a noticeable improvement. He stated they would continue the treatment of the phragmites into next year. Assistant Director Johnson also reported there were shrubs that were damaged and would be replaced soon. He stated overall the project is performing well.

4. Milford Point Road – Assistant Director Johnson reported the projects need to go out to bid, hopefully by November with work on a winter schedule.

5. Morningside Revetment – Assistant Director Johnson reported the pre-bid meeting was attending by 10 or 11. He stated they received two solid bids that they will review with Race Coastal. He noted both bids came in significantly higher than expected.

6. Gulf Street/Welches Point Road/Bluff Area – Assistant Director Johnson reported there is not change. He stated they are still waiting for funding resources.

7. Wildemere/Walnut Beach – Assistant Director Johnson reported he spoke today with Army Corp (Paula Colberg). He shared on the screen the letter he received from DEEP yesterday, dated August 6, 2021, regarding the rock core and mitigation. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Mr. Casey asked why this project has to be mitigated since sand dune and beach nourishment is part of the mitigation of the beach.

Mr. Bevilaqua stated this type of a request also cuts into the dollars available for the project. He stated the request simply makes no sense.

Assistant Director Johnson stated is part of the regulatory planning.

Mr. Bach stated there are many projects around the state using the stone silt (sills).

Chairman Zabinski stated the idea of removing the rock core from the sand dune came before this Board two years ago and questioned why it is still being discussed. He stated this response from DEEP is old news and basically the project continues to go nowhere. He stated going forward he wants to be copied on all key memo’s such as this one. Discussion ensued.

8. Crescent Beach – Assistant Director Johnson reported Army Corp has indicated they would be doing improvements under a general permit. He stated the Army Corp has been asked to re-examine and re-approve because the permit expires in August. Assistant Director Johnson stated he would apply for the extension and re-approval tomorrow.

Mr. Bach stated this is another project that has been talked about for a while. It was discussed whether to move forward in spending the monies since it is such a small solution.

Mr. Bevilaqua stated even the reduced renourishment would provide some relief but agreed as to the value.

Mr. Casey stated this could be a perfect location for the reef ball.

Assistant Director Johnson explained the core grass planted behind in the intertidal area often conflicts with recreational beach goers. He stated he is not sure where that beach grass would need t be planted. Discussion ensued.

9. Pelham Street – no update.

10. Gulf Beach Breakwater/Groin – Assistant Director Johnson stated this project has been defunded and the monies transferred by DEEP to another project.

B) Update: Resiliency Plan – Assistant Director Johnson stated he had no updates.

C) Update: Program for Public Information (PPI) – Assistant Director Johnson stated he would speak with Mr. Griffith, DPLU Director for updates.

D) Meeting with Agencies RE: Wildemere/Walnut Beach

Mr. Bach asked if a permit had been issued.

Assistant Director Johnson stated he would confer with Director Saley and report to the Board next month.

Chairman Zabinski asked Ald. Gaynor (Board’s aldermanic liaison) if this is something that can be brought before the Board of Aldermen at their monthly meetings.

Ald. Gaynor explained the monthly agenda is set ahead of time but encouraged people to come out and speak during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

**VI. New Business**

None.

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

The meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy Recording Secretary