**FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**January 9, 2024**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, **January 9, 2024**, 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 S. Johnson, Asst. Public Works Director

Andy Bevilacqua, Chairman

John Casey, Vice Chairman

Michael Casey, Alderman Liaison

Board Members Not Present

Thom Bach

Ray Manzouri

**II. Election of Officers- Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Mr. Zabinski made a motion to nominate Andy Bevilacqua as Chairman and John Casey as Vice Chairman.
Mr. Bevilacqua mentioned his intent to leave the board within the next year but accepts the responsibility as Chairman for his remaining time. John accepted as Vice Chairman.
Mr. Bevilacqua seconded the motion. Adopted unanimously.

**III. 2024 Meeting Date Schedule**

Mr. Casey motioned to approve the 2024 Meeting Date Schedule. Mr. Zabinski seconded motion. Adopted unanimously.

**IV. Public Participation**

Doreen Stomsky, 47 Orland St- Questioning if hydraulic study of Calf Pen Meadow Creek can be a project funded through grants. Hightide in December, the creek overflowed onto East Street through resident’s property. There was about 6 inches remaining before flood waters reached going over the bridge. These flood waters did not recede for 3 hours.

John Rallo- 21 Point Beach Drive- Voicing same concerns as last month’s meeting of flooding that occurs at 21 Point Beach Drive during high tides and rain. News stations were in the neighborhood today regarding the seawater coming up through the drains. Wondering if there are any projects or progress being made in this area. Concerned about flooding and debris as well as failing seawall of neighbor.

David Deluke- 27 Point Beach Drive- Reiterated why he is on the call is the same issue each month. He noted there are barricades up by Bayview Beach in preparation for the storm tonight. Concerned there is nothing up to help block the roads in the Point Beach area. Requesting a study done regarding the flooding damage to the properties in this area.
Also wants to ensure the new Mayor is aware of the flooding and drainage issues that should be taken care of by the City as high tax paying citizens.

Donna Blake- 21 Point Beach Drive- Wondering what it will take for the Mayor or any other officials to care for what is happening in the Point Beach Drive area due to the flooding. Concerned because she cannot walk through the deep water that is flooding around her property. Emailed the Mayor today as well as a month ago. Justin Rosen and DEEP have responded to her emails.

**V. Correspondence**

No Correspondence.

**VI. Consideration of Minutes- December 12, 2023**

Mr. Casey motioned to adopt minutes, Mr. Zabinski seconded motion. Adopted unanimously.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

Asst. Public Works Director Steve Johnson provided updates of the following projects:

 A) Update: RE: Drainage Projects and CDBG Projects

1. Point Beach-

No specific updates, other than the City is reviewing available funding for stormwater pipe lining projects. The City has separate sewer pipes and storm water pipes. Steve had discussion with Chris Saley about the Point Beach stormwater projects.

Steve stated DEEP is aware of violation at 25 Point Beach Drive. Kevin from DEEP would be reaching out to the resident to help bring that wall back into compliance. Steve has not been in touch with DEEP since December.

Steve requesting residents contact him directly with questions on updates for this project. Steve will continue speaking with City on their interest in this. This wall however is in DEEP’s jurisdiction.

Steve mentioned storm events, such as the forecasted wind, rain, and potential coastal flooding this storm can cause. Public works does not have the ability to close roads. Issue of vehicles driving through flooded waters is a problem. The Fire Department and Police Department are responsible for where and when barricades are deployed in preparation of storms.

Steve has reached out to other municipalities to see how they respond to flooded areas and keeping individuals from driving through flood waters. Steve is trying to get creative with ways of helping to educate and enforce drivers to avoid driving through flooded roads.

Discussion ensued with residents of the Point Beach area.

2. Milford Point Road-

 Waiting to get confirmation. Some of utility work has been completed but wire transfers are still awaiting completion. Looking to mobilize and schedule this project in late winter and early spring.

3. Morningside Road-

 No Updates.

4. Gulf Street/Welches Point Road/Bluff area-

 No Updates. Waiting on funding.

5. Wildemere/Walnut Beach-
Steve sent out some information to Michael Zabinski and Andy Bevilacqua. Steve has made substantial progress for a project summary. Steve has looked back into the origination of the project leading to the funding. Steve is documenting each step along the way including outreach, design considerations, applications and permits to the State and Federal agencies, as well as highlighting the documentation and correspondence leading to the project being stalled.

FECB records discussing the Wildemere Beach erosion date back to the 1960’s, 70’s and 80’s. Steve will include some of this information in this report. Steve looking to complete this draft by Friday by providing in depth detail and elements he believes are important in moving this project forward.
Discussion ensued regarding what should be included in the summary/detail as well as how projects/assessments can be funded.
Pre-application meeting should be held with State and Federal agencies regarding their issues and concerns with a project of this scope before moving forward.

6. Crescent Beach-
No Updates.

7. Red Bush-

 No Updates.

8. Rowe Ave-

 No Updates.

9. Whole Foods Complex-

 No Updates. Continue to have flooding issues in this area.

10. Bayview-

 There are no updates. There is some funding that the City is going to have scheduled for finalization of obtaining portable pumps and connections. No immediate benefit to East Ave or other areas, but these pumps could be used in other flooded areas as needed.
There is a study that was sent out regarding repetitive loss areas, with residential elevation grants available. Individuals can apply for funding through the state. Those individuals are directed to speak with Jeremy Grant, Open Space and Sustainability Manager. This funding is not respective to funding of hydraulic study of the Calf Pen Marsh Creek area.
Steve has documentation of study completed regarding old flood gates in this area. Steve invited Doreen to contact him directly for further discussion on this topic.

11. Laurel Ave-
Bids came in significantly greater than what City had planned for funding.
Steve is looking to confirm all sources of funding that are available for flood and erosion projects including the Point Beach and Laurel Ave projects.
Steve wants to be sure that funding is in place to complete these projects.

B) Update: Program for Public Information (PPI)-
 Board of Aldermen approved the Hazzard Mitigation Program and the PPI that the FECB has approved and forwarded to SCROGG.

C) Update: Resiliency Plan-

 No Updates. 2016 Resiliency Plan was funded through HUDD.

**VIII. New Business**

No new business.

**IX. Adjournment**

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Casey and Mr. Zabinski made and seconded a motion to Adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Bevilacqua adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

 Jessica Davidson