

**FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2013**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held a meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 in the Mayor's Conference Room in City Hall. Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He commented this Board has not met in nearly a decade. He stated there have been a lot of flood issues in Milford which has lead to the resurgence of this Board.

I. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Michael Zabinski
Thomas E. Bach
Drew Berndlmaier
Patrick Tokarz

Also Present

Mayor Ben Blake
Gary Wassmer, City Engineer
William Richards, Recovery Coordinator
Richard Tomasko, Interim Public Works Director
Susan Shaw, BOA Liasion

Excused: William Phillips

Mayor Blake continued with introductions of the members of the Board and those present. He stated the first order of business for the Board would be to elect a chairman and then a vice chairman. He stated this is merely a formality to get the meeting going and that the Board would have to do elections again at its January meeting.

II. Election of Chairman

Mayor Blake stated he would entertain a motion for Chairman.

Mr. Zabinski stated he would be interested in serving as chairman.

Mr. Tokarz and Mr. Berndlmaier made and seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Zabinski as Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blake turned the meeting over to Mr. Zabinski.

III. Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Zabinski stated he would entertain a motion for nomination of Vice Chairman.

Mr. Bach stated he would like to serve as the Vice Chairman and made that in the form of a motion. Mr. Tokarz seconded the nomination. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Presentation by City Personnel Re: Flood & Erosion Mitigation

Mayor Blake stated he would provide an update of all of Milford going from end to end.

East Side – Mayor Blake stated the Army Corp of Engineers has identified and approve work at Trudee Beach (Woodmont). He went on to provide a history dating back to Storm Beth. Mayor Blake stated they have agreed to maintain the beach which they installed sometime after Storm Beth.

Mr. Wassmer stated he would look into a potential completion date.

Anchor Beach – Mayor Blake stated this area is also maintained to some degree by the Borough. He stated the area sustained some damage after Irene; however slight damage after Storm Sandy.

Poli Mansions/Condomiums – Mayor Blake stated this area is all private, but noted there was a significant damage; however the city is not involved.

Mr. Richards stated they were offered help, but the indicated they would take care of it themselves.

Mayor Blake continued that tonight was simply a thumbnail sketch of the various areas in Milford. He also stated there are professionals present tonight that can fill in.

Hillside Avenue – Mayor Blake stated they had significant damage in this area, with 8-9 houses in a row destroyed on the beach side of the street, continuing along to South Street. He stated there is a joint agreement with the Army Corp and the City. He stated after Storms Irene and Sandy help has come in for the seawall.

Mr. Richards addressed the South Street sea wall project which cost approximately \$150,000.

Mayor Blake stated the City was fortunate that the public infra-structure did quite well, mostly because of the work that was done after Storm Irene to make various areas in the city more resilient.

Morningside – Mayor Blake stated both ends had damage. He explained the seawall was built back in the 1960's by the Army Corp which has held up quite well. Mayor Blake stated the west end needs some repairs as well. He stated there was significant erosion along the Boynton property area which could impact the streets at some point. He reiterated there was significant erosion in that area.

Mr. Wassmer stated a meeting was scheduled today; however, Mr. Gauch had an emergency so they had to re-schedule the meeting. He stated he would keep the Board advised of any developments.

Point Beach area – Mayor Blake reported they had significant damage in this area. He stated there was a home at the end of Morehouse Road that sustained significant flooding. He also spoke of the drainage projects that they are looking at in that area.

Ald. Shaw commented if you look at that area it is basically a bowl, with the lowest point around Richard Street.

Mayor Blake stated the Board may want to identify some type of breakwater. He stated there are some funding sources for mitigation, but it just is not know what will get funded.

Mr. Richards spoke of a \$20,000 grant over a 1 ½ year period. He stated Milone & Broom will do a study of the entire town to make it more resilient for future storms. He stated all of the grants they have looked at are for elevation of homes and public assistance grants. Mr. Richards stated they were also look at transformers owned by UI, which they are hoping to mitigate. He also indicated there are monies from the State that they will be looking at. Mr. Richards also stated they had put in for a grant for nine generators. He went on to explain the Hazardous Mitigation Plan which is mandated by DEEP, which allows the city to apply for Federal Funding and grants. He stated they continue work on the mitigation program and but more importantly they are looking 10 years out or more to make Milford a more resilient city. He also reported in January 2014 the new Emergency Management Director will begin quarterly meetings with various city departments.

Mayor Blake spoke regarding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which he stated all towns in Connecticut are part of. He pointed out one-third of Milford is in a flood zone. He also spoke of some of the new laws coming forward. A brief discussion ensued regarding mitigation and elevation of homes.

Bayview Beach – Mayor Blake stated there were a multitude of programs in this area. He stated the east end by the Melba Street Bridge was hit as well as the area surrounding the Calf Pen Meadow Creek, as well as the beach area. He stated Nettleton Creek just received a six month extension. He also reported Calf Pen Meadow Creek was just completed. Mayor Blake commented on any given day you could find flooding from the creek area. He noted all of the Bayview storm drains and catch basis need to be re-done. He stated there is also frequent flooding on Field Court.

Mr. Wassmer stated he would be meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers sometime this week.

Mayor Blake stated that Bayview Beach and Silver Sands will get a beach re-nourishment. He stated that this unfortunately did not include Wildemere Beach at this time.

Mr. Bach asked how these areas were chosen.

Mr. Wassmer stated he was not sure.

Mayor Blake also reported the drainage project would be done in the Bayview area, with the biggest hurdles being permitting through DEEP. A brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Blake stated one thing the Board should dig into is the Community Rating Service (CRS) and work with Mr. Richards to lower Milford's rating.

Point Lookout – Mayor Blake reported there was some minor damage.

Mr. Richards stated this area was unique in that there are some natural earth burms that are eroding. He stated if you were to look at it from the water side you would see gaps. He also pointed out it is all private property.

Welch's Point Road/Gulf Street – Mayor Blake stated the area around Eveningside Drive has been severely eroded.

Mr. Richards stated they have had several conversations with FEMA regarding this area.

Mayor Blake stated the Board may wish to look at that and have some conversation.

Gulf Beach – Mayor Blake reported that 3 years ago the City re-designed this beach.

Mr. Richard added that storm Irene undermined the parking lot.

Mr. Tomasco commented almost all of the work that was done there is gone.

Mayor Blake stated it had been investigated about the possibility of putting in a rock jetty. He stated he may also be possible to extend the breakwater. Mayor Blake stated another problem at Gulf Beach is that the sand drains into the harbor which then means added dredging.

Fort Trumbull – Mayor Blake stated this area is in good shape. He went on to explain the Fort Trumbull reventment project which was recently completed.

Silver Sands – Mayor Blake stated the East Broadway area was the most sensitive area. He stated they were hit by the storm surge and then the homes on the other side were flooded because of the salt marsh in back which drains into Long Island Sound along the flood gates. He stated the flood gates and training walls are being re-engineered. He stated it was the hope that would at least slow down the erosion. Mayor Blake also reported this area was identified by the Army Corp of Engineers for a renourishment program. He stated they have also committed to maintaining some of the small finger streets along East Broadway.

Walnut Beach – Mayor Blake reported this area did fairly well which he stated was likely due to the very large burm in that area.

Wildemere Beach/Costa Assurra area – Mayor Blake stated this was also a sensitive area. He stated a beach renourishment is very much needed in this area. He stated he is looking to push the Army Corp to do this.

V. Discussion

Mr. Bach asked the Mayor if he was looking to this Board to look for a solution that includes a jetty, etc.

Mr. Richards stated a system needs to be put in place basically from Cape Cod to Cape May. He stated as a community there needs to be discussion as to what would best benefit the entire coastline. One of the questions for this Board is how will that happen. He suggested the Board seek help from the congressional delegation.

Mayor Blake stated what he has provided is a brief overview for the Board as a starting point. He stated this is the time for this Board to start discussions regarding the city's coastline. He stated he is putting a lot on this Board's plate in terms of projects. He stated it is up to this Board as to the scope of how they wish to proceed.

Mr. Bach asked if all of these projects were listed somewhere.

Mr. Richards stated they could be found in the Hazardous Mitigation Plan which could be found on the City's web-site.

Chairman Zabinsky stated the Board's first order of business would be to define its goals.

Mr. Richards stated the Mitigation Plan describes each beach and the number of residents in that area. He suggested the Board break it down into small areas.

Mr. Bach agreed the Board should consider biting off small chunks of this one at a time.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated he would like to have some history on the drainage projects in the city. A brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Blake noted there are 7,500 catch basins and storm drains in the city and that there are flooding issues throughout Milford.

Mr. Berndlmaier commented in Norwalk they too have a lot of flooding issues, mainly due to undersized pipes.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

It was the consensus of the Board to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings will be held in the Parsons Government Complex in a conference room to be determined, likely Conference Room A. For the January meeting only, it will be held on January 21, 2013, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary