



**Town of Greenwich
Flood and Erosion Control Board
February 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes
3:30 pm – Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich, Connecticut**

Those attending: Anthony M. Macleod (Chairman), Edward Schmeltz, Aubrey Mead, Jr., Len Van Houten, Peter Tesei, Amy Siebert, Scott Marucci, Dave Thompson, Denise Savageau, Michael Chambers, and Cindy Baumann, CDM.

1. Call to Order and Administrative Matters

The meeting was held in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Mr. Macleod called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm and said the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the agenda, copies of which were available for the public.

The meeting notes from 16 October 2008, 15 December 2008, and 15 January 2009 were presented and accepted.

Project Update – Drainage Manual:

Scott Marucci provided an update on the status of the Drainage Manual development by the Town's consultant. The following items were discussed:

- Updated schedule: Given the need for extensive senior staff input / writing, the project schedule has been extended to August 2009 for the Drainage Manual completion and December 2009 for the regulatory implementation. This is presuming Town staff can meet their review turnaround obligations.
- DPW is currently reviewing the Draft Drainage Manual and will provide the consultant comments within the next three weeks. The Table of Contents for the Draft Drainage Manual was presented to the Board.
- Once the Draft Drainage Manual is reviewed by DPW and comments are addressed, the document will be given to the Board for their review and comment.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Brothers Brook:

Cindy Baumann from CDM provided an update on the status of the Brothers Brook Flood Study. The "Brothers Brook Project Status Memorandum" was distributed to the Board. The following items were discussed:

- Existing and future conditions models have been developed and CDM is currently evaluating alternatives.
- CDM will be arranging site visits with residents from the Echo Lane and Fairfield Road areas in order to confirm the limits of flooding during the April, 2007 storm event.
- Once the model results are confirmed and alternatives are developed a draft report will be prepared and submitted to the Town for review.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Cider Mill Brook:

Cindy Baumann from CDM provided an update on the status of the Cider Mill Brook Flood Study. The “Cider Mill Brook Project Status Memorandum” was distributed to the Board. The following items were discussed:

- Existing and future conditions models have been developed and CDM is currently evaluating alternatives.
- CDM will be arranging a site visit with residents from the Deepwoods Lane area in order to confirm the limits of flooding during the April, 2007 storm event.
- A draft report was submitted to the Town on January 20, 2009 that summarized the results of the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Byram River:

Amy Siebert provided an update on the status of the ACOE coordination relative to the Byram River Flood Study. The following items were discussed:

- Due to the recent changes in congressional leadership and the focus on the economy, very little progress has been made relative to the Byram River Flood Study.
- The Town’s Law Department has reviewed the cost sharing agreement and provided DPW with comments on the document. These will need to be addressed with the ACOE. Changing the ACOE standard language is very difficult and time consuming.
- Denise Savageau noted that currently all ACOE proposals are on hold and that once the new administration and economic stimulus plan is resolved, the appropriations will be processed and/or approved by the ACOE. She suggested that this may happen in March or April.
- DPW did evaluate a number of small drainage system issues in the Byram River watershed and has identified three smaller areas for CDM to evaluate independently of the entire Byram River corridor study. These are areas where drainage system problems have the potential to affect major travel routes under certain conditions.

Cindy Baumann from CDM provided an update on the status of the Byram River Flood Study. The “Byram River Project Status Memorandum” was distributed to the Board. The following items were discussed:

- CDM is currently studying the Pemberwick Park and Mayfair Lane areas within the Byram River watershed. The following tasks have been completed for these two project areas:

Existing and future conditions models have been developed for both study areas.

Improvements are being evaluated to address deficiencies within each drainage system.

- CDM is finalizing recommendations and preparing draft reports for submittal to the Town within the next two weeks.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Other Ongoing Drainage Projects Status:

The following items were discussed:

- The DPW is trying to move forward with some construction project(s) utilizing this year's budget and monies not used on the Old Field Point Road project. They would like to have some "shovel ready" projects for construction next year.

Project Selection Criteria Report:

Cindy Baumann from CDM presented a draft of the Stormwater Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Evaluation Sheet and Capital Improvement Projects Ranking Criteria Memorandum to the Board. The following items were discussed:

- The Board suggested that costs be included in the ranking of the stormwater projects.
- The Board requested that the "Environmental Quality" criteria be better described in the Memorandum.
- The Board asked if the "number of lots" criteria is correctly defined. It seems like for some projects there would be more than 40 lots impacted. CDM will take another look at this criteria.
- Some discussion concentrated on the possibility of distinguishing between basement, first floor, and back yard flooding. This differentiation is difficult since the first floor elevations are not known relative to flood elevations under various conditions. A very detailed survey of every doorway elevation would be needed to accomplish this – it would be extremely costly and time consuming.
- It was made clear that this prioritization ranking is a dynamic spreadsheet which will be updated as the additional watersheds are studied. Currently the spreadsheet can be completed to include those improvements recommended in the Strickland Brook watershed, Old Greenwich area and at Church Street.
- The CIP Evaluation Sheet is a good first cut and a more detailed cost/benefit analysis could be performed on specific recommendations if needed.
- The Board would like the Memorandum updated and the current recommendations (Strickland Brook, Church Street and Old Greenwich area) evaluated using the CIP Evaluation Sheet in order to present the ranking at the next Board meeting.

Coastal Areas:

The following items were discussed relative to the coastal areas:

- Concern was raised about emergency access during coastal storm surges and emergency planning for evacuation of residents. The Town has an Emergency Operations Coordinator involved in this work.
- The coastal areas are not currently within the areas of study by CDM. This will need to be addressed after the final watersheds are evaluated (Mianus River/Horseneck Brook/Byram River).

Public Education / Information:

The following items were discussed relative to public education:

- An update and/or bulletin might be warranted to update the public on the status of the various stormwater projects.
- It was mentioned that the public needs to be educated on the various stormwater projects, the need for stormwater improvements and the cost/ranking of the various stormwater recommendations.

New Business:

The following general comments were made:

- The Board suggested looking into any type of emergency funding sources for some of the drainage improvements that would improve emergency access.
- Some discussions focused on the possibility for creating a Stormwater Utility. CDM have created stormwater utilities for many municipalities around the U.S. The local one that is currently serving as an example in New England is the Town of Chicopee, MA.
- The Board and DPW discussed the possibility of having CDM perform studies on the remaining watersheds (Mianus River and Horseneck Brook) starting next fiscal year.

Public Comments:

Mr. Porter mentioned that public education is a must and he encouraged the Board and DPW to communicate more frequently with the public. He stated that the prioritization process seems fair and equitable, but the approach by a non-involved person (CDM) does not include empathy or an evaluation of the quality of life. He would like to see some design with the current funding in order to move forward with some of the recommendations. He noted the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development states the FECB is in charge of this work so communication is key and the decision processes should be clearly articulated.

- Ms. Conboy asked that South Water Street flooding in the Byram River watershed be addressed.
- Ms. Stella Roberto provided additional photographs of the Lyons Farm detention pond outlet structure. Cindy Baumann from CDM stated that the structure was not blocked during the field investigations performed by CDM in December, 2008. Ms. Roberto is still concerned with the Lyons Farm outlet structure, maintenance of the watercourse upstream of Pemberwick Park, and the potential for flooding at the Park.
- Candice Garthwaite requested a budget and schedule for the recommended improvements within the various watersheds.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, 2009 at 3:00 pm.