



**Town of Greenwich
Flood and Erosion Control Board
March 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes
3:00 pm – Cone Room, Town Hall, Greenwich, Connecticut**

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

1. Call to Order and Administrative Matters

The following summarizes the items discussed at the recent Flood & Erosion Control Board Meeting held at the Town Hall on Thursday, March 19th, 2009. The discussion has been grouped based on the topics identified in the meeting agenda.

The meeting notes from the previous meeting were presented and accepted. Chairman Macleod mentioned the previous meeting minutes did not sufficiently reflect the Board's comments regarding their desire to continue moving to design and construction and to keep this work a priority. He asked that it be noted in these minutes that the Board has continued to identify the need for urgency in moving work forward to design and construction /shovel ready projects. Furthermore, the Board has been addressing the request for additional meetings by meeting more frequently. Mr. Tesei noted that he was present at the prior meeting.

2. Update – Byram River Stream Gauge

Dan Warzoha, Town Emergency Operations Coordinator, provided an update on the Byram River Stream Gauge. He noted:

- FEMA is funding for a stream gauge on the Byram River at the Comly Avenue bridge.
- The Town of Greenwich will be responsible for overseeing the grant, with DPW coordinating its installation with the EOC and Conservation.
- The USGS will calibrate and maintain the gauge, the Town (DPW) will be responsible for paying the costs associated with the maintenance. Data collected by the gauge will be available on the USGS website. The gauge will provide real time, 24/7 stream discharge data of the Byram River.
- Mr. Warzoha mentioned that he would be happy to assist in shepherding the project through town processes.

The Board mentioned that the DPW should look at any additional areas in Town where gauges might be beneficial for notification of flooding.

3. Project Update – Drainage Manual

Amy Siebert provided an update on the status of the Drainage Manual development by the Town's consultant. The schedule and progress are the same as the last meeting, with completion of the manual anticipated in the fall.

4. 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:

- A review of flooding extents was performed with residents and DPW staff at Putnam Avenue, Echo Lane, Ridgeview Avenue, North Street, Old Church Road and Fairfield Road to confirm the limits of flooding during the April 2007 storm. This review provided the necessary feedback to calibrate the hydraulic model and finalize CDM's study.
- Ms. Baumann presented preliminary findings from the study, which included culvert replacements at several locations including Putnam Avenue, Beechcroft Road, Ridgeview Avenue, North Street, Old Church Road, and Fairfield Road. It was also noted that removal of the stone arch footbridges just south of Putnam Avenue would provide immediate relief at Putnam Avenue.

- Once the alternatives are finalized a draft report will be prepared and submitted to the Town for review.

5. 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:

- A review of existing flooding extents was performed with residents and DPW staff in the area of Deepwoods Lane, Midbrook Lane and Shadybrook Lane to confirm the limits of flooding during the April 2007 storm. Based on this review, the current models accurately replicate existing conditions, which confirms the calibration of the models.
- Ms. Baumann presented the following preliminary recommendations for Cider Mill Brook to decrease flooding within the watershed:
 - Additional twin 10’ by 6’ culverts under the railroad
 - Replacement of the East Putnam Avenue culvert with 12’ by 8’ culvert
 - Replacement of the Palmer Hill Road culvert with twin 6’ by 4’ culverts
 - Structure cleaning of several culverts within the watershed.
- A draft report was submitted to the Town on January 20, 2009 that summarized the results of the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses. Comments were recently received from the Town and CDM will incorporate the comments and provide the final report to the Town within the next few weeks.
- During the project development, CDM identified discrepancies in the FEMA results for the Cider Mill Brook Easterly Tributary. Ms. Baumann presented a technical memo that summarized the discrepancies and identified the need for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for this area of Cider Mill Brook. In the area around Deepwoods Lane, Midbrook Lane and Shadybrook Lane, the limits of the 25-year storm developed by CDM and confirmed by the residents is outside of the limits of the 100-year storm shown on FEMA mapping.

6. 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:

- DPW has provided Congressman Jim Hime’s office with the Byram River Feasibility Study information previously shared with Congressman Shays office, in an effort to move funding forward. DPW will continue to check in with Hime’s office for updates.
- Eugene Brickman, the Town’s lead contact at the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), is hoping to coordinate a meeting with Jim Himes and the New England USACOE to discuss potential projects in Fairfield County. Mr. Brickman was also going to check into the ability to use leftover Westchester County reconnaissance study funding for the Byram River Feasibility Study.

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:

- The current evaluation of the Pemberwick Park area shows the existing drainage network has the capacity to convey the 10-year storm. For the 25-year storm, some lines within the system cannot carry this storm event, while the majority of the system is functioning at this level of protection. Recommendations are being developed and a draft report will be submitted to the Town within the next two weeks.
- The current evaluation of the Mayfair Lane area revealed that the existing drainage system is significantly undersized and cannot convey the 2-year storm event. Recommendations are being developed and a draft report will be submitted to the Town within the next two weeks.

7. 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 recommended improvements for the Cider Mill Brook watershed were added to the matrix and Ms. Baumann presented the ranking of the current projects being evaluated (19 within the Old Greenwich, Strickland Brook, Cider Mill and Church Street areas).
- The Board wanted an opportunity to review those criteria that were more judgmental and requested that the technical criteria be highlighted in some way to assist the Town in reviewing/evaluating the matrix.
- Ms. Siebert mentioned that she did meet with Town personnel relative to emergency access and safety and their comments are being incorporated in the matrix.
- Discussion continued regarding having this matrix be the screening mechanism for the improvements and that a more detailed evaluation could be performed on selected improvements that warranted additional evaluation.
- The Board discussed that costs should not really be a factor and potentially be omitted at this stage of the project.
- The Board requested that the design storm be added to the matrix.
- There was some discussion relative to weighting the criteria. Currently all nine criteria have equal weighting. Once the Board has an opportunity to thoroughly review the matrix, the ranking system could be modified to weight some of the criteria if the Board feels that some criteria should carry more weight than others.

8. Public Education / Information

Amy Siebert provided the Board with material relative to public education:

- The most recent CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Advisor highlighted flooding and steps that can be taken to address it / associate damages.
- An article from the January/February issue of Government Engineering magazine discussed coastal flooding and the various coastal restoration and flood protection options available within the coastal areas – structural (e.g. levees), wetlands restoration, and removing structures from areas to reduce potential damages.

9. Stormwater Utilities

Cindy Baumann from CDM presented the Stormwater Utility Implementation and Funding Memorandum to the Board that provided information on stormwater utilities. The following items were discussed:

- A stormwater utility could be implemented to provide a dedicated funding source for stormwater improvements.
- Ms. Baumann presented a list of New England cities and towns that have created a stormwater utility to fund the stormwater capital improvements and provided the Board with brief information from those municipalities as examples of fee schedules, policies and educational materials.
- The Board discussed that current funding for stormwater improvements comes from property taxes and wondered if a stormwater utility fee is a tax and if it is tax deductible. This question and others will require additional research.

10. Coastal Areas

Cindy Baumann from CDM presented the Limits of Coastal Flooding Memorandum to the Board that provided information on coastal flood elevations.

11. General Comments

The following general comments were made:

Michael Chambers mentioned that he has staff available to assist the DPW.

There was a request to make sure that the meeting agenda is posted prior to the meeting for those that would like to see what is going to be discussed.