



**Town of Greenwich
Flood and Erosion Control Board
April 15 Meeting Minutes
3:30 pm – Engineering Conference 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, Denise Savageau, and Katie Blankley.

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 Wednesday, April 15, 2009. The meeting was moved from the Engineering Conference Room to Commissioner Siebert's office, notice of the move was posted on the Engineering Conference Room door. The meeting was called to order and the meeting notes from the previous meeting of March 19, 2009 were presented and accepted.

A brief discussion of Byram and the Corps project ensued. Money should be coming from the reconnaissance study, the leftovers to get us started. The appropriation process has just started and the need for the CT Congressional delegate to help push it forward was discussed. Ms. Siebert met with BET member Nancy Barton and reviewed what DPW and the FECB had done to date.

2. Project Selection Criteria Report and Discussion

Mr. Macleod mentioned that no "official" statement has been made yet by the Board regarding backyard/ basement flooding. However the Board has discussed it and noted that they are not emphasizing addressing such flooding at this point.

Discussion turned to the DPW's review of potential projects with the Traffic Safety Coordinating Committee (TSCC). The TSCC is a group formed to review traffic/transportation and related issues/solutions in a collaborative way, and includes representatives from Police, Fire, GEMS, and various DPW divisions including Highway & Engineering (which encompasses Traffic). This committee stressed the need for public safety and the desire to have appropriate access for all emergency responders in event of flood conditions. DPW met with the TSCC to discuss the recommendations resulting from work on the Strickland Brook & Cider Mill stormwater master plans, and Church Street drainage evaluation, and some initial draft results from the Brothers Brook master plan. Projects were reviewed to determine which projects affect public safety in terms of maintaining transportation / emergency response routes open, protecting critical infrastructure and other safety factors. Projects were ranked as a team based on public safety concerns for each location. DPW showed the projects identified as public safety priorities and the rankings assigned to them by the team. Peter Tesei suggested that Dan Warzoha be involved meetings with Emergency personnel as he has dual knowledge of firefighting and wastewater.

Discussion ensued regarding project ranking. Edward Schmeltz suggested ranking should first go by Emergency Access/ Public Safety. Top projects using the emergency services / public safety criteria were Hillside Rd at Rt. 1 / Church Street & Sherwood Place at Rt. 1 area / Cider Mill Railroad Culverts at Binney Park / Arcadia Rd. drainage area in Old Greenwich / Cos Cob Avenue drainage network. Aubrey Mead made a motion, Len Van Houten seconded the motion, with the group agreeing on these projects as public safety concerns, ranked in the order listed with the first project rated No. 1 at this time. The group discussed that as additional master plan information becomes available, the project list will continue to grow and rankings may shift to some extent as all are evaluated against each other. The Board also made a motion and resolution supporting the Mianus Park Pond Dam repair project, as a public safety project (this project had already been funded and is underway through DPW's Engineering Division).

FEMA – Consideration and discussion regarding FEMA ensued, to determine if projects to address flooding in FEMA designated flood plains should go to a separate category or not. The group questioned if starting designs in such areas would create issues with obtaining federal funding. Also discussed what drivers could be used for identifying FEMA projects separately:

- Availability of flood insurance (e.g. if a home is in a known flood zone and has federal insurance available, should the Town spend its funds to address flooding at that location?)
- People know they bought in a flood zone and/or on a brook (should the Town spend its funds to address floodplain areas when people have chosen to reside in such an area?)
- Possibility of funding (e.g. should the Town spend its funds to address such floodplains if federal dollars might be available?)

A Motion was made by Edward Schmeltz to take the top two rated projects; Hillside (investigate two arches along Rt. 1 just south of Brothers Brook) and Church St. storm drain to design phase. The motion was seconded by Aubrey Mead and a resolution was made. The motion was made, seconded and resolved to support the Mianus Park Pond dam repair project. This project is has begun and funds are currently in the DPW budget.

3. Discussion: Coastal Areas

The board asked what has been done in previous studies to address coastal areas. Scott Marrucci said that there are studies of coastal models and flood plain elevations. The group discussed several questions, including:

- What is the role of the Flood and Erosion Control Board with respect to coastal flooding?
- What should we be looking at?
- How do we protect and when do we vacate?

Len Van Houten stated that as a board there is a duty to look at coastal events. Tony Macleod mentioned that the FECB does not determine when evacuation occurs. The board discussed public education and preparation. Peter Tesei suggested an op/ed piece for the FECB to educate the public about how they can be ready for a major storm and reflect on what has been done with respect to flooding so far.

The Board discussed looking at FEMA and GIS maps for 100/500 year storms to see what is there. It was agreed that GIS maps would be pulled up for the next meeting.

The Board adjourned.