



**Town of Greenwich
Flood and Erosion Control Board
October 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes
3:00 pm – Town Hall Greenwich, Connecticut**

Those attending: Anthony M. Macleod (Chairman), Edward Schmeltz, Leonard Van Houten, Aubrey Mead, Jr. , Also by invitation of the Board, Amy Siebert, Scott Marucci, and Cindy Baumann, CDM.

1. Call to Order and Administrative Matters

The meeting was held in the Joseph W. Cone Conference Room. Mr. Macleod called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 the previous meeting were presented and accepted.

Byram River - Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) Update:

Amy Siebert provided an update on the Byram River study and coordination with the ACOE. The following items were discussed:

- The total capital budget for this year (\$21 - \$22 million) is lower than last year (\$35 – \$40 million), and the DPW is being asked to adjust, remove and/or reduce projects to reduce the total capital budget.
- The Town is working with the ACOE and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) to finalize the scope of work and cost sharing agreement.
- The ACOE and Town will cost share the project with a 50/50 contribution from each party. The board asked if there should be \$1.5 million in the current budget for this project. Amy explained that there are some in-kind services (performed by the Town) that qualify and the total cost could be spread over a few years. Amy also mentioned that they are investigating if any money was left over from the Westchester study that may be applied to the Byram study.
- The Town Law Department will review the cost sharing agreement between the Town and the ACOE.
- Town staff noted that all federal budgets have been put on status quo and no new funding is being approved.

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:

- An interim Addendum #3 has been issued and was effective October 13, 2008.
- The first submittal of the Phase II work is due on November 6 by the consultant.

- The Town's consultant revised the schedule for Phase II to 9 months. This schedule is very dependent on prompt internal reviews by the town.
- A new Building Permit Application Checklist has been created and is now required to be submitted and signed by all applicants.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Byram River:

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 met with residents to confirm model results with actual flooding limits experienced during the April 2007 storm event.
- CDM has been asked by the DPW to put together a proposal to study the following three areas within the Byram River watershed that are not associated with the ACOE river study. These are drainage network issues that require study to protect public safety:
 - Mayfair and Riversville Road
 - Pemberwick Road west of Greenway Drive
 - Pemberwick Park
- Denise Savageau mentioned that a new flood gage was installed on the Byram River that records real time data. The data is downloaded to the site every hour during normal conditions and every 15 minutes once a particular flood stage is reached. The information is downloaded via satellite and is therefore not dependant on a power source. The data is also on a standard datum that can be correlated to other information.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Old Greenwich Area:

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

- CDM performed additional field investigations in September and has completed the hydrologic and hydraulic models.
- Alternatives have been developed within all 14 watersheds and the improvements have been prioritized into three categories; those with known flooding problems and/or very undersized systems were ranked higher than those with slightly undersized systems with no known flooding problems:
- CDM will be submitting a draft report to the DPW within the next few weeks.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Strickland Brook:

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

- CDM has developed two alternatives to help alleviate flooding within the Cos Cob area:

Alternative A – Providing storage within Mianus Park, Pomerance Park, Tuchman Property, widening the channel south of Bible Street Park, and improvements to the Cos Cob Avenue drainage system.

Alternative B – Providing storage within Mianus Park Pond, diversion culvert to Cos Cob Harbor and improvements to the Cos Cob Avenue drainage system.

- CDM submitted a draft report in August. The final report is being completed and will be submitted to the town within the next 6 weeks.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Brothers Brook:

Cindy Baumann 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:

- Field investigations were performed in August and September to obtain additional information on the structures along the brooks and confirm measurements of the various drainage structures.
- The existing conditions hydrologic model has been developed and CDM is currently working on development of the hydraulic model.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Cider Mill Brook:

Cindy Baumann 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:

- Field investigations were performed in July, August and September to obtain additional information on the structures along the brooks and confirm measurements of the various drainage structures.
- The existing and future conditions models have been developed for the watershed.
- CDM is currently developing alternatives to alleviate flowing within the watershed.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Church Street:

Cindy Baumann provided an update on the status of the Church Street Drainage Analysis. The “Church Street Area Project Status Memorandum” was distributed to the Board. The following items were discussed:

- The draft report was submitted to the Town on October 7, 2008.

- The recommended improvements (Alternative A) included replacement of pipes within East Putnam Avenue, Sherwood Place and Mason Street.
- The final report was submitted to the Town on October 10, 2008.
- The Board suggested looking into state funding sources since some of the drainage improvements are within State Route 1 (Putnam Avenue).

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

Amy Siebert and Scott Marucci provided updates on some of the other projects currently being investigated and/or performed by the DPW. The following summarizes the status of these other projects:

- The Old Field Point Road drainage system construction contract has been awarded.
- A trash rack has been installed on the twin culverts at Bible Street Park.

Project Update – Stormwater Master Plans – Project Selection Update:

Amy Siebert presented a draft of the Stormwater Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Evaluation Sheet to the Board. The following items were discussed:

- Members on the Board made the following comments:

The CIP ranking worksheet should be culled down to 7 – 8 items that include the more critical impacts.

Costs should be included in the CIP worksheet, and a cost / benefit analysis approach developed.

The number of people impacted and not the area impacted should be emphasized.

There was an interest in emphasizing the severity of the impact.

General Comments:

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.
- The Board asked if there was a particular storm event or a trend line with respect to the improvements in order to show the best option based on cost and storm event. DPW thought they would have CDM look at one specific location and perform a cost/benefit analysis of the recommended improvements to confirm and/or develop a trend line for the storm event that would be most cost effective.

- The Board and DPW discussed the possibility of having an interim meeting prior to the January meeting to obtain input from the Board relative to the various improvements being recommended.
- The Board asked about the possibility of developing a stormwater utility in order to have a funding source for future projects. There was discussion of the pros and cons of having a public or private utility.
- The DPW is currently developing the annual budget and has to submit it to the Town tomorrow.
- The Board and DPW discussed the possibility of having CDM perform studies on the remaining watersheds (Mianus River and Horseneck Brook) next year.

Public Comments:

- Mr. Ainsworth(sp?) at 15 Park Avenue requested that the Board find solutions to the flooding on Park, Highview, Arcadia and Lockwood. Residents at 3 -15 Park Avenue continually get flooding in their backyards. Mr. Ainsworth noted that groundwater issues are worse in this area.
- Ms. Roberto spoke of the lack of maintenance within the Pemberwick Park area. She appreciates the new catchbasins that were installed, but still is very concerned about Lyons Farm. She stated that Lyons Farm has been blocking their drain and allowing the pond to fill up with water during non-storm periods and wants that town take action to have them restore it to the way it was designed. Amy mentioned that Mike Chambers is looking at the Lyons Farm issue.
- Candice & Ernest Garthwaite of 36 Park Avenue explained the flooding that exists in their back yard at 36 Park Avenue and threatens their studio. The runoff from Highview collects in their backyard and they need to maintain pumps to reduce the impacts from flood waters. They expressed that it is a health hazard (pollutants & electric pumps) to try to control the flooding. Photos were presented as well as a petition signed by 89 residents in their neighborhood.
- Mr. Bria (sp?) at 128 Park Avenue requested that the Flood & Erosion Control Board put pressure on Planning & Zoning to put a moratorium on expanding houses until the new drainage manual is finalized.
- Mr. Porter stated that the drainage problems are the Highway Department responsibility and they should get the engineering done and get going. He asked if the under-run on the Field Point Road drainage project can be re-assigned to another area. He stated that the DPW and Engineering Department needs help to get all the problems solved and that additional staff is needed. He suggested the Board go to the Town for more money to solve the drainage problems since drainage is the most important issue in the town.
- Mr. Quigley, District 7 RTM asked where the \$500,000 in construction dollars is going and estimated the total cost for drainage improvements greater than \$100 million. He emphasized the importance of public health, safety and private property.
- Mr. Tesei stated that the Plan of Conservation and Development is an important vehicle for addressing flooding and drainage issues. The Board needs to protect the public and get additional

funding for stormwater projects. He asked the Board to appear before the BET to enlighten them on stormwater issues; look at alternative means for obtaining funding; support a town-wide symposium on funding; and support the DPW to increase staffing. He also noted that interim measures may be needed on Arcadia, Park & Highview but did not specify what these might entail.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th, 2008.