

Present: David Benvenuti
Gerald Holmberg
Chris Callahan
George Harran

Also Present: Remi Lavergne
Louis Delegan

Chairman Benvenuti called the Flood and Erosion Control Board Regular Meeting of September 2, 2015 to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Benvenuti reported he spoke to Don Gerwick, and he was informed our last bathymetric study on Keeney Cove was done in 2010. At that time eight transects were done. Mr. Gerwick estimated the cost to do a bathymetric survey in Keeney Cove of approximately \$4500. Mr. Benvenuti would need to speak to the Finance Director to determine how it could be financed, because it is not in this year's budget.

At the August meeting Stephen and Geraldine Kuenkler had expressed concern about sediment buildup in Keeney Cove after work on an upstream bridge by the state. Mr. Benvenuti spoke to Ms. Fitzgerald, Environmental Planner, who talked to the state requesting a post construction survey and they refused to do it.

Mr. Holmberg suggested putting the Keeney Cove survey in next year's budget. He felt the Alewife Cove project should take first priority in our budget for this year. All other Commission members agreed. Mr. Benvenuti agreed to call the Kuenklers and let them know this Board's decision.

a. Alewife Cove Bathymetric Survey. Mr. Lavergne of 87 Ridgewood Avenue, Waterford, reported he met with residents in the area of Alewife Cove every two weeks, and they discussed their concerns and how to address them. He asked what is this Board's plan is and how the Alewife Cove group can help.

Mr. Benvenuti reported Alewife Cove was dredged in 1987 to improve water quality. The project was jointly funded by the Town of Waterford, the City of New London and the State of Connecticut. Before the project, a sand bar blocked the cove entrance and tidal flow only occurred for about three hours around high tide. The dredging was done using a hydraulic dredge, which deposited the dredge slurry into a pit dug in Ocean Beach. After the slurry de-watered, the dredge sand was covered over with beach sand that had been stockpiled after digging the pit. A jetty was built on the New London side of the cove entrance to block sand that is transported from east to west along the shore. A low jetty on the Waterford side of the cove entrance was reinforced. Maintenance dredging has been done between the New London and Waterford jetties two or three times since the initial dredging. In recent years, sand has

continued to build up between the two jetties and the outgoing tidal flow has eroded sand behind the New London jetty, which could cause it to become an island in the future if nothing is done. Many years ago, there were oyster beds in Alewife Cove. Since Alewife Cove was dredged, we have done several bathymetric surveys to measure the depth at several transects along the cove entrance. We have had discussions with DEEP, the Friends of Ocean Beach and the City of New London about what can be done to fix the problem. To stop erosion behind the New London jetty, there were discussions on putting in large concrete blocks behind the jetty, and, if that works covering it with rip rap and replanting the area. We applied for a grant to fund an engineering survey and are waiting to see if we got it.

Louis Delegan of 7 Parkway North, Waterford, Connecticut asked what was the cost to Waterford of the 1987 dredge project? Mr. Benvenuti replied Waterford paid 25%, New London paid 25% and the state paid 50%. At that time it cost \$400,000. Further work on this project needs to be coordinated with the City of New London. If we obtain the grant, we will have discussions with the City of New London. Possibly the City will prefer to do in-kind services for their share of the cost.

Mr. Delegan asked how deep did they dredge? Mr. Benvenuti replied four to six feet. The engineer will analyze the situation.

Mr. Lavergne asked will the project extend as far upstream as the bridge? Mr. Benvenuti replied it would not. Mr. Benvenuti stated if we can fix this problem we would apply for a long-term maintenance dredging permit to keep sand from going into the cove. This will allow more water to flow in and out of the cove.

Mr. Delegan reported there is a sand bar in back of his house. Mr. Benvenuti replied we need to give DEEP a good reason if we try to disrupt nature. Mr. Lavergne agrees nature should not be disrupted. He asked if Waterford and New London could educate people on using home products that would not pollute the cove. Mr. Benvenuti replied we made an attempt to do that. Mr. Lavergne suggested encouraging businesses to promote that. Mr. Holmberg felt fertilizers can cause problems as well. He suggested contacting the Connecticut Agriculture Extension in Norwich and Agriculture Experiment Station in New Haven.

2. NEW BUSINESS

There was no discussion of new business.

3. PLANS REVIEW

There were no plans for review.

4. Payment of Bills.

Frances Gheri submitted a bill for reimbursement for keys made for the Town of Waterford in the amount of \$4.02.

MOTION: Mr. Holmberg moved to reimburse Frances Gheri \$4.02 for keys made for the Town of Waterford to be taken out of Account No. 10141-52070
Seconded by Mr. Callahan. (4-0) Unanimous

5. Correspondence.

1. Letter dated September 2, 2015 from Donald Gerwick regarding information and history regarding the Keeney Cove Bathymetric Survey.

2. Day newspaper article entitled "Old Lyme receives state grant to dredge Black Hall, Four Mile rivers.". dated August 19, 2015.

3. Day newspaper article regarding alternative uses of dredged sand for beach nourishment.

6. Approval of Minutes of August 5, 2015. Mr. Benvenuti asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the Flood and Erosion Control Board Regular Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2015.

MOTION: Mr. Harran moved to approve the Flood and Erosion Control Board Regular Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2015, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Holmberg. (4-0) Unanimous.

7. Adjournment.

MOTION: Mr. Harran moved to adjourn the September 2, 2015 Flood and Erosion Control Board Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Holmberg. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary