FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2019

Present: Geneva Renegar
Betsy Gelinas
Chris Callahan
George Harran
Baird Welch-Collins
Alex Kuvalanka

Also Present: Abbey Piersall, Planning Director
Nick Kepple, Town Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES. Co-Chair Gelinas called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

3. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding letter of no objection. Board members reviewed email dated November 27, 2019 from Aaron M. Ferraro to the Co-chairs requesting a “Statement of No Objection” letter from this Board, Letter to Ms. Wendy Gendron, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding State Project No. 44-154 regarding rehabilitation of the East Lyme/Waterford bridge.

Co-chair Gelinas distributed back-up material to Board members.

Ms. Piersall reported the nature of this project is for repairs of the bridge which will begin in 2020. The planned repairs are for steel superstructure repair and painting, deck repair, resurfacing and joint replacement, control house architectural updates and repairs, mechanical and electrical system updates and repairs, repair of existing timber fender systems protecting the two in-water bascule piers, approach roadway, sidewalk, stair tower and traffic safety feature updates and repairs and replacement of external intermediate bracing members based upon the load rating report. These improvements will occur over the federal navigation channel of the Niantic River and are asking this Board’s approval.

Ms. Piersall informed the Board this will be a two-year project of these necessary repairs. In terms of impact to the channel or flooding, it was felt it would be minimal.

Attorney Kepple reported this is basically a bridge project and the impact will be bridge related. The repairs are due to traffic safety. It is possible some modest impact may need to be addressed. He felt the letter from this Board may include subject to implementation of best management practices for erosion and sediment control and construction materials storage Attorney Kepple stated that this project will be controlled and supervised by the Army Corps of Engineers. He felt when the Town has an opportunity to partner with the state and federal agencies, the Town should not slow the project down.
Mr. Callahan stated his reluctance initially was that we were asked to sign a letter of no objection without back-up information. As a volunteer he was uncomfortable with signing for the Town, because this has never been done before by this Board. Attorney Kepple stated this Board’s only concern is if something affected the shore.

Mr. Harran did not feel he had training on the seven items the planned bridge rehabilitation included and with dealing with state and federal agencies. He reported as a volunteer we do not issue permits or stop projects. Attorney Kepple reported because it was a large project, they are asking for East Lyme and Waterford’s letter of no objection to it.

Mr. Welch-Collins felt they are looking for us to send a letter of no objection so far as our Board has authority. He had no objection to it. Mr. Kuvalanka also had no objection to it. Ms. Renegar asked that the letter reference Soil Erosion and Stormwater Management Guidelines.

MOTION (1): Mr. Welch-Collins moved to send a letter of no objection to DOT regarding Project 044-154 to rehabilitate the Niantic River Bridge, subject to implementation of best management practices for erosion and sediment control and construction materials storage in accordance with the 2002 DEEP Stormwater Management Guidelines. Seconded by Mr. Callahan. (6-0) Unanimous.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (2): Mr. Welch-Collins moved to adjourn the December 15, 2019 Flood and Erosion Control Board Special Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Kuvalanka. (6-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi
Recording Secretary