

## Pine Creek Dike Elevation Increase Study

### Public Information Meeting

**To:** Joseph Michelangelo, P.E. –  
Fairfield Director of Public Works  
Laura Pulie, P.E. – Fairfield  
Engineering

**ATTENDEES:** Joseph Michelangelo, Town of Fairfield      Laura Pulie, Town of Fairfield  
Rick Grauer, Chairman - Flood & Erosion Control Board      Richard Dmochowski, Flood & Erosion Control Board  
Jon Richer, Tighe & Bond      Dana Huff, Tighe & Bond  
Pine Creek Association Members  
& Local Residents

**FROM:** Jonathan A. Richer, P.E.

**DATE:** April 21, 2014

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On April 16, 2014, a Special Meeting of the Town of Fairfield Flood & Erosion Control Board was held at the Fairfield Scandinavian Club to present the preliminary results of the Pine Creek Dike Elevation Increase Study to the Flood & Erosion Control Board, the Pine Creek Association and local residents. Introductory comments were made by Chairman Grauer and Joe Michelangelo (JM). A presentation was made by Jon Richer (JR) of Tighe & Bond (see copy attached).

The following are comments and questions received from the audience after the presentation.

1. A resident stated that he felt the 1955 flood was worse than Hurricane Sandy for the Pine Creek area.
2. A resident asked about the possibility of pumping sand to create a wave break further out in Long Island Sound.
3. A resident stated that the loss of approximately 6' of usable property multiplied by the length of the dike amounts to a considerable taking.
4. A resident requested the cost of the concrete floodwall option. JM and JR stated that this has not been prepared yet but could be provided at a future date.
5. A resident stated that the project needs to be extended west of South Pine Creek Road to the cliffs to restore an area where the dike is lower near South Pine Creek Road. JR stated the intent of the project is to continue the proposed dike section west of South Pine Creek Road.
6. A resident asked what the decision making process for the project will entail. JM stated that several flood control projects are being considered throughout the Town.

If the decision is made to move forward with the project, it will need to be vetted and approved through the Representative Town Meeting prior to proceeding.

7. A resident stated that they observed water going over the dike during Hurricane Sandy and stated they feel this project is important for the area due to sea level rise.
8. A resident inquired about considering a steeper slope on the water side of the dike to lessen the encroachment on properties. JR stated that a slope stability analysis would need to be done but this could be investigated.
9. A resident stated they feel property values will go down if the dike is raised.
10. A resident asked whether Town Zoning will allow the houses to be raised above the flood zone elevation due to height restrictions. JM stated this would be a question for the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
11. A resident stated they feel that whatever is done to improve protection will raise the values of the affected properties. They stated they feel the project will have multiple benefits: potential protection against a storm as well as preserving property values and keeping insurance cost reasonable.
12. A resident asked what the funding mechanism will be. JM stated that the Town is seeking Federal funding for the project. If Federal funding is received, it will likely require a Town match of at least 25%.
13. A resident asked what impact raising the dike would have on Fairfield Beach Road. JR stated that the project should not impact Fairfield Beach Road as wave action impacts Fairfield Beach Road prior to reaching the Pine Creek Dike and floodwaters are not constrained as in a riverine flooding situation.
14. A resident asked whether funding will be affected if the proposed project provides less than the FEMA recommendation for the dike height.
15. A resident asked whether there are any other seaward side options that could be investigated instead of raising the dike on the landward side.
16. A resident asked whether a breakwater further out in Long Island Sound is an option to reduce the height of waves impacting Pine Creek Dike. JM & JR stated that this is something that could be investigated but there would likely be permitting challenges.
17. A resident asked where the material for raising the dike would come from and whether dredged material from Pine Creek could be used. JR stated that there are construction material suppliers in Connecticut that produce clay materials that would be appropriate for use in the dike. The dredged material is likely to be a sandy, erodible material that would not be appropriate to use in the dike unless mixed with other materials.
18. A resident asked whether the major trees currently in the dike would need to be removed. JM said this will be investigated as the tree root systems can weaken the dike.
19. A resident asked where the Pine Creek Dike project ranks for potential funding. JM stated that the Town has applied for funding for several flood control projects

throughout the Town. Funding priority will likely be determined by which projects receive Federal funding.

20. A resident stated that he felt individual residents could get a better sense of the impact of the proposed project if the Town could do some sort of mock-up. Laura Pulie stated that cross sections could be created for each of the residences to illustrate the impact of the proposed project on that property.
21. A resident expressed concern about maintenance of the dike.
22. A resident further expanded on his thoughts about a potential breakwater extending out from Fairfield Beach Road to protect the area from wave action. JR stated this possibility could be investigated.

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