



Sullivan Independence Hall  
725 Old Post Road  
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

## Town of Fairfield

Flood & Erosion Control Board  
Rick Grauer, Chairman

October 28, 2014

Dear Board of Selectmen,

The Flood & Erosion Control Board (F&ECB) requests and strongly recommends that the Town make an additional directive to the Penfield Building Committee (PBC) regarding modifications to the existing Penfield Pavilion Flood Protection Wall. This request is prompted by the need to consider the overall flood protection of Fairfield's shoreline area.

In November, 2013, the Town prepared and submitted a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) request for a Proposed Flood Control System which would protect much of Fairfield's developed land within the Special Flood Hazard Area (beach neighborhood) against the 1% Chance Flood Event. This project consists of construction of a system of flood walls and levees that would extend from Shoreham Terrace on the eastern boarder of town to South Pine Creek Road in the central portion of town. Its location relative to the shoreline varies depending on the conditions but generally ranges from immediately along the shoreline to several hundred feet landward. The structures may vary in height from Elevation +15.0 ft. to +17.0 ft. In their Federal Interest Determination document of August 2014, the US Army Corps of Engineers evaluated this plan and found that, "Given the amount of property and infrastructure protected by this project there is reason to believe the benefits of such a project would be significant." Prior to construction of this system, a series of design, environmental and planning studies would have to be conducted, and Federal, State, and Local approvals would be pursued, none of which have yet been implemented, funded, or authorized by the Town.

The modifications to the flood protection wall that are being proposed by the PBC as part of its evaluation of options for the future of Penfield Pavilion would provide flood protection to Elevation +12.0 ft. (which is the current height). The improvements include closing the openings in the wall (already completed), installing erosion protection, and extending the wall on each end to close off gaps between the wall and the existing dunes. These improvements, *with an increased elevation to +15 ft.*, have been endorsed by the F&ECB in their 6/19/14 letter to the PBC (copy attached).

During our October 15, 2014 meeting, the F&ECB considered making a recommendation to the Town to include the incremental cost to modify the wall height as part of the improvements to the Penfield Pavilion Flood Protection Wall to be consistent with the Town's Proposed Flood Control System. This is one step of many that are required and critical to the process of completing a comprehensive Flood Control System that will provide significant flood protection.

Our Board then considered and approved an alternate recommendation to the Town to determine the incremental cost to make modifications to the substructure to accept a future wall height increase to a maximum height of elevation +17 ft. It is likely that this may be a cost effective

measure as part of the current project and would offer potential future cost savings should the Town Flood Control System or portions of it be constructed. Therefore, the F&ECB recommends that the Board of Selectmen add the directive to the PBC to determine this cost. Should this incremental cost be an acceptable increase in the overall project budget, the F&ECB recommends that the modifications be incorporated into the current rebuilding project.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Fairfield Flood & Erosion Control Board

Sincerely,



Rick Grauer

Chairman,

Flood & Erosion Control Board