



Town of Fairfield

THOMAS R. BREMER
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

725 Old Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

November 2, 2022

Ms. Daisy Sweeney
Branch Chief, Floodplain Management and Insurance
FEMA Region I
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
Sent Via Email: Daisy.Sweeney@fema.dhs.gov

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

I wanted to update you on developments regarding Penfield Pavilion and to memorialize our discussions of September 19th. As you were advised, prior to our aforementioned meeting, we had an informational meeting with all of the pertinent Fairfield town boards and advised them of our plans to comply with the FEMA NOV of November 28, 2018. Since September, a number of developments have occurred.

As I mentioned in our previous meetings and letters, we are keeping to our time schedule and are planning to begin the project some time in November 2022. We have already selected (through an RFP process) a Construction Manager, an Architect with a team of structural and geotechnical engineers, and a Licensed Environmental Professional for the remediation aspects of the project. We expect to deliver to your offices, in the near term, schematics and designs to definitively show how we will proceed with the construction of a new foundation (as in lowering the grade beams) to a new elevation, etc. We are desirous of beginning construction, after receiving your approval to proceed. If what you receive in the near term is insufficient to render an opinion, please advise.

It is my understanding from our previous discussions that you will need to understand our design/implementation plan at this stage. Although I am advised that formal construction drawings will take some time to be completed, we are putting together initial plans from which a determination can be made. When completed, of course, complete construction drawings will be provided. I also understand that you will also need "as built" plans at the end of construction as well. Finally, I understand that the Town has the obligation to alert your office of any deviation from the plans previously approved during construction.

We are now preparing the information required to request actual funding for the entire project from the various legislative bodies. There is no doubt that a number of questions will again be raised during the presentation which we briefly discussed at our meeting of September 19.

Specifically, is there any opportunity for the Town to somehow “reclaim” the FEMA money that was denied the Town now that the Town has committed to correct (remove) the foundation and lower the elevation beneath the building to eight feet? It is my understanding that these corrective actions will fully satisfy the outstanding NOV and bring the building to full compliance. Put another way, is there anything the Town can do in this project to again make the Town eligible for these funds? It would be helpful if a definitive answer from FEMA representatives could be provided.

Secondly, the concern about creating a “funnel” between sand dunes remains a concern by a group of homeowners. Although during a “Storm Sandy event” little can be done at the Penfield Pavilion site to avoid flooding, a concern has been raised about lesser event storms. We did discuss this at our meeting and you mentioned other FEMA programs to help protect the homes behind Penfield. If you could provide me insight to these programs that would also be helpful for the presentation. As I believe I mentioned during our meeting, the administration is not addressing other coastal resiliency issues that may exist through this Penfield project.

Finally, I expect to be presenting our funding request prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We are fully committed to moving forward as expeditiously as possible. I will alert your office as to when you can expect to receive the initial plans which are actively being assembled as of this writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas R. Bremer". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas R. Bremer
Chief Administrative Office

cc: John Grace, John.Grace@fema.dhs.gov
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