

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD  
December 13, 2022**

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTSM4JBkdfQ>

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Becky Bunnell, Vice Chair Don Lamberty, Secretary Richard Dmochowski, Paul Landino

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Peter Wiswell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Conservation Director Tim Bishop, Chair Ash Creek Conservancy Association, Rick Landau

1. **Call to Order**  
Chairwoman Becky Bunnell called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **To Hear, Consider and Act Upon Minutes of the November 22, 2022 special meeting**  
Some amendments were made to the minutes of 11/22/22.  
*Richard Dmochowski made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/22/22 as amended. Don Lamberty seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*
3. **Election of 2023 officers**  
*Richard Dmochowski nominated Becky Bunnell to remain as FECB Chairwoman. Don Lamberty seconded the nomination which carried unanimously.*  
*Richard Dmochowski nominated Don Lamberty to remain as FECB Vice Chair. Becky Bunnell seconded the nomination which carried unanimously.*  
*Becky Bunnell nominated Richard Dmochowski to remain as FECB Secretary. Don Lamberty seconded the nomination which carried unanimously.*
4. **Set 2023 meeting dates**  
The FECB will continue to meet every third Tuesday of the month and the following meeting schedule was adopted:  

January 17	July 18
February 21	August 15
March 21	September 19
April 18	October 17
May 16	November 21
June 20	December 19
5. **To hear a presentation by the Ash Creek Conservancy Association**  
Gail Robinson from the Ash Creek Conservancy Association shared her presentation on the Webex screen. The Ash Creek Barrier Split will likely disappear by 2036. Save the Sound will take on the Ash Creek Restoration project with a \$700,000 grant. The master plan will be approximately 100 pages and will include a governing structure. This will cover both Fairfield and Bridgeport sides of the creek. The website, [www.saveourspit.org](http://www.saveourspit.org) includes documents and studies. Project progress and updates will be on the site as well. Ms. Robinson took questions from

the FECB regarding the \$700,000. Save the Sound will do studies and create the shovel ready plan. There is concern that time is running out to save the tidal estuary. The ACCA is currently trying to acquire funding for restoration. Ms. Robinson thanked the FECB for being great supporters. The full discussion and presentation are available by accessing the meeting recording link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTSM4JBkdfQ>

6. Discussion on evolving plans for Penfield Pavilion plan – with Public Comment.

The FECB has not been communicating with FEMA but the Town is. First Selectwoman Kupchick has been very open and willing to answer questions. Chairwoman Bunnell suggested the residents contact the First Selectwoman if anyone wants to discuss the Penfield plan. Ms. Bunnell went through the timeline of events from Superstorm Sandy in 2012 to the current status of the Penfield Pavilion. There was a discussion about what led the Town to where we are now. First Selectwoman Kupchick will not go forward until there is approval from both FEMA and DEEP. Currently the Town is part of a program through FEMA that allows the residents to receive a 10% flood insurance discount, but if regulations are not met, it might not be available.

Chairwoman Bunnell opened the discussion for Public Comment:

- George Desmond-131 Old Dam Road
- Alyssa Israel- 679 Rowland Road
- William Gerber- 25 Shady Hill Road
- Gary Romeo- 420 Birch Road
- Patti Zecchi- 1791 Fairfield Beach Road

For the full discussion and Public Comment, please refer to the meeting recording link above.

There was a discussion about who governs DEEP and one of the Public Comments was about reaching out to legislators. Chairwoman Bunnell explained that the Legislators have been involved and were told the Town needs to be in compliance. There was also a comment about possibly getting rid of the pavilion altogether and servicing the people on the beach another way. Chairwoman Bunnell reassured the public that the FECB wants to help. The Town will be doing mitigation studies concurrent with the planning of the Pavilion. She advised the public to contact the administration or send emails to [FECB@fairfieldct.org](mailto:FECB@fairfieldct.org) and the board will go to the administration with questions.

7. Any additional business that may properly come before the Board  
There was no additional information to discuss.

8. Adjourn

Richard Dmochowski made a motion to adjourn. Don Lamberty seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary (*approved at 2/21/23 FECB meeting*)