

MINUTES
Morris County - Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
March 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by FMC Chair, Louise Davis.

Members present:

Julie Baron
Paula Danchuk
Louise Davis
Ted Eppel (arrived 5:36 p.m.)
Laura Szwak

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Department of Planning & Development
Ray Chang, Director, Morris County Preservation Trust
Jennifer McCulloch, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Morris County Preservation Trust
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Preservation Trust
Tina Boyer, Program Assistant, Morris County Preservation Trust
John Napolitano, Esq., Special Counsel to Flood Mitigation Program

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Chair Davis announced that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 22, 2013 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Laura Szwak, the Committee unanimously approved said Minutes. Paula Danchuk abstained from this vote since she was not present at the January 22nd FMC meeting. Ted Eppel had not yet arrived.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Closings in Parsippany

Ms. McCulloch reported that Parsippany had 8 closings recently, and are scheduled to hold 2-3 more in the next week. Parsippany is hoping that these closings will encourage other property owners to provide the necessary documentation, mainly Duplication of Benefits information, so that the sale of their property can be completed as well. Press releases will wait until the initial slate of most responsive sellers has been entirely completed.

Presentation to the Morris County Planning Board

Ms. McCulloch was invited to give a presentation to the Morris County Planning Board on the

Flood Mitigation Program at their February 21, 2013 meeting. The presentation was well received and Ms. McCulloch hopes that this will lead to synergies going forward.

Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM) - national conference in June

This national association has asked Ms. McCulloch to be a workshop presenter and plenary speaker at their annual conference in June of this year; the gathering typically attracts 1,200 participants. Both the Plenary Presentation and the Workshop will focus on “community-funded flood mitigation programs”. Current industry thinking is that flood mitigation needs to be pushed down to the local level, so there is much interest in our program here in Morris County.

Rules and Regulations - potential revisions

The Preservation Trust experienced a catastrophic server failure that crippled our ability to work for quite some time. Given the need to create two Flood Acquisition Plans and 16 CORE Applications this month – the revision of the Appraisal Policy was back-burnered until next month.

Ted Eppel has been re-appointed this year, and the rest of the FMC will remain the same as per the current Rules and Regulations regarding FMC Membership. It has come to staff’s attention that 4 out of 5 FMC members; 80% of the Committee’s terms would expire in 2014. This would result in a serious drain on the technical expertise and experience level of the FMC. As a result, staff will be re-assessing the rules regarding FMC membership to achieve a more stable model than what we currently have. Ms. McCulloch will draft language for both of these potential revisions for Committee review at our next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:38 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the FMC closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, and per the Committee’s standard resolution language voted to conduct a closed session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 6:07 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

The following actions were taken, as a result of Closed Session deliberations.

- **Resolution 2013-13: Long Hill Township – Millington Project Area** - Flood Acquisition Plan (FLAP) and CORE Application for \$144,038 with an estimated match of \$41,750 derived from a NJ-DEP Green Acres Site Specific Grant. At 6:08 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Ted Eppel, the Committee granted Preliminary Approval of this FLAP and CORE application by unanimous roll call vote.
- **Resolution 2013-14: Long Hill Township – Gillette Project Area** - Flood Acquisition Plan (FLAP) and CORE Application for \$562,868 with an estimated match of \$163,150 derived from a NJ-DEP Green Acres Site Specific Grant. At 6:09 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Ted Eppel, the committee granted Preliminary Approval of this FLAP and CORE application by unanimous roll call vote.

- **Resolution 2013-15: Long Hill Township – Stirling Project Area** - Flood Acquisition Plan (FLAP) and CORE Application for \$2,058,701 with an estimated match of \$596,725 derived from a NJ-DEP Green Acres Site Specific Grant. At 6:10 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the committee granted Preliminary Approval of this FLAP and CORE application by unanimous roll call vote.
- **Resolution 2013-16: Parsippany-4021 Project Area 67 Hiawatha Boulevard** – Final Approval of FAST TRACK acquisition funding in the amount of \$56,930 to cover Morris County’s 25% cost-share, and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with the Township be executed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. McCulloch informed the FMC that a meeting was held with Parsippany on February 1st to discuss the development of a Flood Acquisition Plan (FLAP) and CORE application for 3 properties that did not receive funding from FEMA’s 4021 Hazard Mitigation Grant to Parsippany.

Additionally, Pequannock will most likely be filing a CORE application in their Route 23 Project Area; this will be the first subsequent CORE Application based on a ‘targeted’ property.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15th at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Development, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer N. McCulloch