

MINUTES
Morris County - Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
April 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Louise Davis.

Members present:

Julie Baron	Gary Large
Paula Danchuk	Thomas Pepe
Louise Davis	Laura Szwak
Ted Eppel	

Also attending:

Christine Marion, Director, Planning & Preservation Division
Jennifer McCulloch, Coordinator, Flood Mitigation Program (FMP), Planning & Preservation Division

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 February 23, 2015 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Gary Large, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. McCulloch provided the following updates:

- **Morris County Hazard Mitigation Plan (MC-HMP)** – as discussed at the 2/23/15 FMC meeting, Morris County is updating its HMP; this plan qualifies the county for future federal funding (FEMA mainly). Staff received a request to include the names of municipalities that have Flood Acquisition Plans (FLAPs) because FEMA has indicated that communities with FLAPs would be viewed more favorably from a funding perspective. Ms. McCulloch contacted all 10 municipalities with FLAPs and all have agreed to have their names listed as such in the MC-HMP update.
- **State Legislation: A3318** – This proposed legislation expands the definition of “acquisition” for county/municipal open space trust funds to include demolition, removal of debris, and restoration of those lands to a natural state or to a state useful for recreation and conservation purposes. Ms. McCulloch advised the FMC that this bill was passed unanimously by the Assembly on March 26th. Special counsel to the FMP, John Napolitano reviewed the legislation; it is unclear if additional voter action would be required for Morris County to implement such payments, or alternately, if the existing program can be modified by the Freeholders without voter action. Mr. Napolitano will research this issue if A3318 becomes law. [*doc. A*]

- **New Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) and preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (p-FIRM)** – on March 11, 2015, FEMA released the new FIS and p-FIRMs to Morris County and its municipalities. Staff has reviewed these documents and maps, please see [*doc. B*] for details.
- **NJ League of Municipalities magazine article** – the Morris County Flood Mitigation Program was profiled in the April issue of this magazine [*doc. C*]
- **NJ Land Rally / Tetra-Tech – CRS discussion** – Ms. McCulloch was a presenter at the 2015 NJ Land Rally in a workshop focused on local flood mitigation efforts. The two other presenters discussed the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System (CRS). Participants in the workshop encouraged Morris County to consider involvement in this program as an additional way to support municipal flood mitigation efforts. Staff has also been approached by Tetra-Tech (MC-HMP Update consultants) to meet regarding CRS. Staff will keep the FMC informed of developments on this front.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:43 p.m., on a motion by Tom Pepe, seconded by Paula Danchuk, 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 wherein the subject of real property acquisition shall be discussed.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 6:13 p.m., on a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Laura Szwak, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

The following action was taken:

Pequannock 4021 project area—six month extension request by Pequannock Township [*doc. E*] - on a motion by Ted Eppel, seconded by Tom Pepe, this funding extension has been approved. Funds will now be available until October 25, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Salem County letter to state and federal legislators** – [*doc. I*] was provided for informational purposes. Salem County is requesting relief from the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012; some of the measures requested were addressed by the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (aka Grimm-Waters Act).

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Laura Szwak, seconded by Ted Eppel, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18th at 5:30 pm in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Public Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer N. McCulloch