

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
30 Schuyler Place – 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
August 12th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Christine Marion, Director.

Members present:

Betty Cass-Schmidt	Joseph Pawelczyk
Andrew Crawford	Gary Large
Julie Baron	

Members with an excused absence

Louise Davis	Tom Pepe
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Also attending:

John Napolitano, Esq., Legal Counsel
Christine Marion, Director, Office of Planning & Preservation
Joseph Barilla, Assistant Director, Office of Planning & Preservation
Virginia Michelin, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Office of Planning & Preservation
Jason Rotter, Assistant Planner, Office of Planning & Preservation

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Christine Marion 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.

- **Election of Officers for the meeting:** On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the committee elected Betty Cass-Schmidt as Chair pro tempore by a unanimous verbal vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the April 15th meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the Committee approved said Minutes. The closed session minutes were reviewed and on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, which was seconded by Gary Large, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Virginia Michelin provided the following updates:

FEMA Review and Resolution of Appeals – Virginia called FEMA a few weeks back to inquire about the status of the municipal appeals of FEMA’s decision not to accept requested map revisions for each town’s pFIRMs. The municipalities and Virginia are waiting to hear back regarding the

towns' requests to have their cases reviewed by FEMA's Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP). As of now, it is expected that the pFIRMs will be adopted by the end of 2020. Virginia will ask municipal officials for updates at tomorrow's CRS Users Group meeting, and continue to reach out to FEMA Region II for any updates.

NJDEP Partial Map Revision – This study will modify FEMA's maps, but it is being conducted by the NJDEP. The most recent update that Virginia received noted that they are still gathering data and pulling information together. The study will update some of the County's effective FIRMs at the time of its completion and change the effective dates for these areas.

CRS Users Group – Meeting tomorrow in Lincoln Park. John Miller of FEMA will be giving a presentation on the upcoming NFIP Risk Rating 2.0 and its effects at the national level and for NJ. Tetra Tech will also give a presentation on the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which just started on August 1st. The current HMP expires in August 2020.

NFIP / Risk Rating 2.0 – Senate bill (National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019) includes provisions to make the NFIP more sustainable and includes a section on continued operations in the case of a government shutdown, in addition to an insurance increase cap of 9% (down from earlier proposals of 25%), increased rates for homeowners who refuse mitigation assistance (including buyouts), affordability measures for lower income individuals, and stronger requirements for disclosure of flood risk in the real estate market, among other provisions.

Sustainable Raritan – Virginia gave a presentation in June on Hazard Mitigation Planning in addition to the County's CRS Users Group. Virginia will also be part of a joint presentation on the Morris, Ocean and Monmouth County's CRS Users Groups at the NJAFM conference, in addition to her assisting the NJAFM with coordinating upcoming CRS training. Basic-level CRS training is planned for the end of September, with advanced training at the NJAFM conference in October.

USACE Technical Assistance – US Army Corps of Engineers Technical Assistance Grant – The County was awarded technical assistance for a post-acquisition plan to be completed for Lincoln Park for preserved areas in the town created mostly through flood buyouts. Work is scheduled to begin October 1st, and Virginia will provide updates.

County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Work started August 1st and will hopefully be complete by August 2020. Municipalities will adopt the plan, which will also count towards CRS credits for communities participating in the CRS program.

Rule Revision (Diversion) – Virginia brought up the fact that diversions have occurred with other preservation trust programs, and that the Morris County FMC doesn't have any policy in place to address diversions, including the potential for developers to consider preserved parcels for affordable housing projects. John Napolitano, discussed his experiences with diversions, and stated that he will write a draft policy which will seek to limit certain types of developments (housing) in preserved project areas which could allow stormwater and other infrastructure which promote flood mitigation.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:49 p.m. on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Andrew Crawford, 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 6:08 p.m. on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Julie Baron, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution 2019-05 – Lincoln Park – Central – 4 Project Area – 46 Forest Avenue – Revised Preliminary Approval** – Originally approved by the Committee for preliminary funding under Resolution 2019-2 – Original amount for this project area was \$57,500, the revised amount will now be \$66,875, for an increase of \$9,375, the NJDEP Green Acres estimated grant amount will now be \$12,500 (an increase of \$2,500). On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the committee granted unanimous Revised Preliminary Approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no new correspondence to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16th, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Schuyler Building, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Michelin, CFM