

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
January 23, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Jennifer McCulloch.

Members present:

Betty Cass-Schmidt	Gary Large
Andrew Crawford	Michael Obremski
Louise Davis	Thomas Pepe

Members with an excused absence

Joe Pawelczyk

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Department of Planning & Public Works
Christine Marion, Director, Planning & Preservation Division
Jennifer McCulloch, Coordinator, Flood Mitigation Program (FMP), Planning & Preservation Division

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Jennifer McCulloch 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.

BOARD ORGANIZATION

- **Election of Officers** – On a motion by Tom Pepe, seconded by Gary Large, the committee elected Louise Davis to be FMC Chair by a unanimous roll call vote. On a motion by Louise Davis, seconded by Mike Obremski, the committee elected Tom Pepe to be FMC Vice-Chair by a unanimous roll call vote. Chair Davis assumed control of the meeting.
- **Member Roster [doc. A]** – FMC members were provided with a roster of current members and Freeholder liaisons. Ms. McCulloch welcomed Betty Cass-Schmidt and Andrew Crawford to the Committee.
- **2017 Meeting Dates [doc. B]** – Meetings will held on the 3rd Monday of the month, at 5:30 p.m. 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. There are three exceptions: meetings will be held on the 4th Monday in the months of February and November in 2017, and January 2018. The meeting schedule will be as follows:

<i>February 27, 2017</i>	<i>July 17, 2017</i>	<i>December 18, 2017</i>
<i>March 20, 2017</i>	<i>August 21, 2017</i>	<i>-----</i>
<i>April 17, 2017</i>	<i>September 18, 2017</i>	<i>January 22, 2018</i>
<i>May 15, 2017</i>	<i>October 16, 2016</i>	
<i>June 19, 2017</i>	<i>November 27, 2017</i>	

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 28, 2016 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Tom Pepe, which was seconded by Gary Large, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. McCulloch provided the following updates:

- **Assembly – new Bill 4484** [*doc. C*] - copy provided to FMC, bill declares that deed restrictions or agreements that prevent raising or construction of a structure to certain flood elevation standards are unenforceable.
- **Governing.com article – “FEMA’s Plan to Make States Pay More for Disasters”**– [*doc. D*] – copy provided to FMC, provides additional detail regarding FEMA’s proposed Disaster Deductible rule proposal.
- **Insurance Journal.com article – “How Flood Risk in U.S. is Changing”** [*doc. E*] - copy provided to FMC, threat of flooding appears to be increasing in the northern half of U.S., and decreasing in the southern half, due to shifting rainfall patterns and retained ground water.
- **FEMA risk letter to policyholders** – National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders will be receiving a form letter from NFIP two months after their insurance renews, which explains the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act and how it affects flood insurance rates for their specific home.
- **NJ-AFM meeting re: new Federal Administration** – Ms. McCulloch will be attending a NJ Association of Floodplain Manager (NJ-AFM) meeting on January 24th regarding expected changes due to the new federal administration. Topics will include: re-authorizing the NFIP and Community Rating System (CRS) programs, Executive Order 13690, the naming of a new FEMA Director, and the viewpoints on climate change, infrastructure mitigation and the newly introduced “Disaster Deductible” concept.
- **CRS Assistance program** – Ms. McCulloch reported on the roll-out of the CRS Assistance program. In addition to the outreach campaign to all MC municipalities, she has met with other Morris County departments to introduce the program and seek their support for future technical or informational requests, which was unanimously given. She is currently working on the creation of a CRS Users group and the development of a Morris County CRS-specific website.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:45 p.m., on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Mike Obremski, 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 6:00 p.m., on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Mike Obremski, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution 2017-01** – On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Andrew Crawford, the committee unanimously set the location, time, date and agenda format of its meetings for the next year.
- **Borough of Lincoln Park – Central, North and South Project Areas – Grant Extension Request** – On a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Tom Pepe, the committee unanimously granted a second, and *final*, 6-month extension on grant funding to these project areas. Funds will be available until September 23, 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to review.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Tom Pepe, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2017 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