

MINUTES
Morris County – Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
30 Schuyler Place – 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
April 18, 2016

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

Members present:

Julie Baron	Louise Davis
Gary Large	Michael Obremski
Joseph Pawelczyk	Laura Szwak

Members with an excused absence:

Tom Pepe

Also attending:

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

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 22, 2016 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Laura Szwak, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Chair Davis welcomed our new FMC members, Michael Obremski and Joseph Pawelczyk.

Ms. McCulloch provided the following updates:

- **preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (p-FIRMs)**
 - **FEMA’s Map Adoption Process** [*doc. A*] – typically takes 18-24 months, we are about 25% through the process. The next step: Open House meetings with the public. Morris County map adoption process is now delayed as a result of re-mapping in Passaic County

due to successful appeals of p-FIRMs in that county. Re-mapped Morris County properties are along the shared border with Passaic County.

- **FMP Role** [*doc. B*] – FMP staff has been an information conduit between FEMA and MC municipalities, including facilitating all meetings to date. Next steps: launch p-FIRM website, coordinate Open House meetings.
- **Analysis of Changes in Flood Risk** [*doc. C*] – Thanks to an extraordinary effort by the MC-GIS (Geographic Information Systems) division, MC has provided mapping to our municipalities that highlights changes in flood zones areas and the designated risk level for structures. Additionally, MC-GIS created reports that give the specific address, block/lot for structures affected by these changes.

At the Community Coordination meeting, FEMA stated that Morris is the *only county in the country* they are aware of that has successfully created these kinds of maps/reports to assist its municipalities. They congratulated MC-GIS for this accomplishment.

The new p-FIRMs show that MC has 13,562 structures in the Special Flood Hazard Areas, including 1,508 buildings in the floodway. A spreadsheet analyzing results by municipality can be found in document C.

- **Sample ‘Change Analysis’ map** [*doc. D*]- map of Denville depicts how flood zones and risk designations have shifted and changed since the township’s last FIRM dated June 1971.
- **State Legislation** – action has taken place on the following: [*doc. E*]
 - **S2769/A780**–implements constitutional dedication of CBT revenues – passed both Houses
 - **A1645/S195**- expands definition of acquisition to include demolition – passed Assembly

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:50 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 wherein the subject of real property acquisition shall be discussed.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 6:02 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joe Pawelczyk, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Community Rating System Assistance (CRSA) Program** – Ms. McCulloch continues to gather information about this possible program. Currently, there are five MC municipalities active in CRS; other towns could benefit from it as well. MC-FMP assists flood-prone *homeowners*, the CRSA program would help *businesses*. Ms. McCulloch will present materials regarding a potential CRSA program at our next meeting for FMC consideration and a potential recommendation to the Freeholders for the creation of this initiative within the Flood Mitigation Program.
- **Project Re-Application Issues** – Ms. McCulloch received an inquiry regarding the potential conversion of elevation projects to acquisition projects. The municipality asked if a new supporting resolution be required, even if funding for this Project Area had been obtained in the past. The FMC determined that a new Supporting Resolution would be required; this resolution would identify the specific properties and be executed by the current governing body.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Joe Pawelczyk, seconded by Laura Szwak, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16 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