

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
30 Schuyler Place – 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
April 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Tom Pepe, Vice Chair.

Members present:

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

Members with an excused absence

Louise Davis

Also attending:

Christine Marion, 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

Vice Chair Tom Pepe 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 March 18th meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, which was seconded by Julie Baron, the Committee approved said Minutes. The closed session minutes were reviewed and on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, which was seconded by Andrew Crawford, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Virginia Michelin provided the following updates:

FEMA – Review period for preliminary FIRMs closed in May of 2018. Pequannock Township has decided to appeal FEMA’s decision that the Township’s initial appeal did not satisfy the requirements needed to make any map revisions. Pequannock met with FEMA at the end of March and will hopefully be heard by FEMA’s Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) this month. This will likely push the map adoption until the middle of 2020.

NJDEP – Is performing a partial map revision (PMR) based on a detailed stream study of Morris County for the FIRM maps. Virginia will see NJDEP staff at the next CRS Users Group

meeting and will get an update on the status of the PMR. FEMA's map revision will probably be finalized before the NJDEP has completed their Morris County stream study. Each of these map updates for the County will need to go thru the same adoption process.

CRS Users Group – Next meeting is May 14th. Forerunner, a cloud-based CRS management tool will be presenting. They are a new company and are creating software which will allow municipalities to track their points and see what is needed to reach the next class. Participating municipalities are interested in this tool especially as will reduce the paper intensiveness of tracking CRS activities and maintaining records.

NFIP – At last meeting, it was mentioned that the NFIP was extended until May 31st. Last month, the NFIP announced plans for a new insurance rating system called Risk Rating 2.0 (<https://www.fema.gov/nfiptransformation>). Originally FEMA stated that this would be a pilot program for Gulf Coast states, but now FEMA is planning on implementing it nationwide in October 2020 for all single family residents. The plan is to revise the rates so that property owners close to the flood hazard (river, ocean etc.) will pay a higher rate while those who live further will pay a lower rate. The current policy capping how much rates can increase per year will remain in effect.

An article in Tab 2 discusses suggested changes to the NFIP to make the program more sustainable. This article was published in the Environmental Law Reporter. They are hoping to have reforms pass the House and Senate in order to extend the program for years beyond the next deadline (5/31/19) rather than another short extension.

Technical Mapping Advisory Council now has a full quorum and will be adding technical reforms into the program

Rule revisions – Freeholders approved rule changes and the new version is on the website in addition to the back sleeve of the binder.

USACE Technical Assistance Grant – Application for Lincoln Park submitted on Friday. Hopefully will hear back in July or August as to whether the grant has been selected. The hope is to receive assistance for post-acquisition plans. The goal of this grant is to incorporate existing recreation, develop passive recreation (Blueway/Greenway) into the plan and create flood storage and wildlife habitat. The plan will layout what should be done once acquisitions have been completed in the different sections of the Borough.

County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) – Last adopted in 2015. Morris County Office of Emergency Management has been working for approximately the last year to obtain a FEMA grant to help fund the County's new HMP. FEMA recently awarded the grant, and a state kick-off meeting will occur in the near future. The updated plan is due to be updated in 2020. (HMP plans expire after 5 years.) All municipalities need to adopt the plan, in addition, those communities that participation in the CRS program will receive CRS credits for it once it's adopted. The county needs to adopt the plan as well.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:39 p.m. on a motion by Gary Large, second by Betty Cass-Schmidt, 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 5:53 p.m. on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution 2019-03 – Lincoln Park – Central-6 Project Area – 19 Woodlawn Road – Preliminary Approval** – Application for one property for a total of \$168,750, with an estimated match of \$45,000 from a NJDEP Green Acres grant. On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Julie Baron, the Committee granted unanimous Preliminary Approval.
- **Resolution 2019-04 – Lincoln Park – South-7 Project Area – Preliminary Approval** – Application for two properties for a total of \$338,750, with an estimated match of \$85,000 from a NJDEP Green Acres grant. On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the Committee granted unanimous Preliminary Approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no new correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

Signage – Virginia reached out to graphic artist in the County to development examples of possible signage advertising Morris County's efforts in flood mitigation. The signs would not be posted at individual lots. The plan is to place them in areas when they are completely (or very close to being) bought out, and will serve an educational purpose for the community while bringing attention to the Program. Language suggested for the signs is very similar to those used for properties that receive Historic Preservation funding.

The Committee was receptive to this idea. They suggested that black text should be used on the signs. Christine Marion will reach out to the County Administration and the Board of Chosen Freeholders regarding this effort.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20th, 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