

MINUTES
Morris County - Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
July 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by FMC Chair Louise Davis.

Members present:

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

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Department of Planning & Public Works
Christine Marion, Director, Planning & Preservation Division
Jennifer McCulloch, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Planning & Preservation Division
John Napolitano, Esq., Special Counsel to Flood Mitigation Program

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 April 21, 2014 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Ted Eppel, which was seconded by Julie Baron, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- **‘Hurricane Jack’** – Ms. McCulloch informed the FMC of a disaster preparedness exercise held on April 30th (FEMA’s National Hurricane Awareness Day) hosted by MC-OEM which simulated a Category 4 hurricane. This simulation included a week of preparatory emergency alerts which culminated in a day-long exercise that replicated a major hurricane making landfall in Morris County, including a wide variety of scenarios that would need to be addressed. All necessary departments within Morris County participated, as well as local representatives and utilities. This exercise clarified roles and responsibilities, identified resource gaps, and greatly enhanced Morris County’s readiness for such a storm event.
- **Rules and Regulations – Appraisal Policy update** – Ms. McCulloch asked the FMC to review the recommended revisions to the FMP Appraisal Policy. Overall, the goal is to revise the wording of the Policy to refer to the “most recent USPAP standards” – thus alleviating the need to change FMP policy every time there is a change at the USPAP level.

The FMC concurred with these revisions and recommends they be presented to the Freeholders to take action upon at their next meeting.

- **Preservation Trust Strategic Report** – this report has been finalized by the consultants and will be presented to the Freeholders on Wednesday, July 9th at 5:30 pm at their Work Session meeting. Questions and comments from the public will be taken at 7:30 pm during the Public Session that same evening. The Final Report has been posted on Morris County’s website for public review. All FMC members are invited to review this report and attend both meetings to hear the presentation of this strategic analysis (Work Session) and to provide input (Public Session) if they so choose.
- **NJ-DEP – Meeting with Fawn McGee** – Ms. McCulloch will be meeting with Fawn McGee, Acquisition Chief for Green Acres & Blue Acres on July 22nd. Topics will include: advance teams, coordination of funding resources between State and County, and BMP for foreclosures.
- **Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)** – These FEMA maps are used to develop Flood Acquisition Plans and determine which homes are in Special Flood Hazard Areas. They help determine a home’s flood risk level and thus eligibility for this program. Morris County’s FIRM are very dated; typically 28-37 years old. We recently received notice that the current goal for updated, digital FIRM is March 2015; this date has been extended several times in the past 2 years.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:24 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, 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 7:00 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution 2014-06 – Lincoln Park-4021 – 11 Paul Street – Final Approval - MATCH** acquisition funding in the amount of \$57,500 to cover Morris County’s 25% cost-share and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with Lincoln Park be executed. At 7:01 p.m., on a motion by Tom Pepe, seconded by Ted Eppel, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.
- **Resolution 2014-07 – Lincoln Park-Central 2 – Preliminary Approval - CORE** Application for \$161,978 with an estimated match of \$46,950 derived from homeowner’s donation of value. At 7:02 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee granted Preliminary Approval of this CORE application by unanimous roll call vote.
- **Resolution 2014-08 – Morristown – Central – Preliminary Approval - CORE**

Application for \$259,267 with an estimated match of \$75,150 derived from homeowner's donation of value. At 7:03 p.m., on a motion by Paula Danchuk, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee granted Preliminary Approval of this CORE application by unanimous roll call vote.

- **Resolution 2014-09 – Pequannock-4021 – 34 Hampton Ave – Final Approval - MATCH** acquisition funding in the amount of \$53,402 to cover Morris County's 25% cost-share and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with Pequannock be executed. At 7:04 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Ted Eppel, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Bill A-3318** – Ms. McCulloch informed the FMC of state legislation that has been proposed which expands the definition of “acquisition”, for purposes of county and municipal open space trust funds, to include demolition, removal of debris and restoration of lands being acquired. A copy of this legislation was made available for review.
- **State of Rhode Island – potential flood mitigation program** – Ms. McCulloch was contacted by Rhode Island's Coordinator for Emergency Management with a request for Morris County's feasibility study, as well as current program information. Rhode Island is considering the launch of a state-wide flood mitigation program similar to Morris County's.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Tom Pepe, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18th at 6:15 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

