

MINUTES
Morris County - Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
October 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Louise Davis.

Members present:

Julie Baron	Ted Eppel
Paula Danchuk	Gary Large
Louise Davis	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 Division

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 September 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Gary Large, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. McCulloch provided the following updates:

- **Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (P-FIRMs) Status** – on October 14th, Ms. McCulloch and Jeff Paul, Director of Morris County Office of Emergency Management (MC-OEM) met with Robert Schaefer (FEMA Project Manager) and Thomas Song (Michael Baker Assoc., Quality Control consultant) regarding the status of Morris County's P-FIRMs which were released on March 11, 2015, then deemed deficient due to quality issues. The new P-FIRMs are created using the latest technology, and should be far more accurate than the current FIRMs. At this point, the maps are slated to be completed and released by mid-December, Ms. McCulloch will confirm that date this week.

FEMA will not be doing riverine inundation mapping, but hopefully the consortium of NJ Department of Environmental Protection, US Geological Services (USGS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be able to develop such mapping, which is far more complex than tidal (ocean) inundation mapping. When asked specifically about inundation mapping for the Passaic River Basin at the October 14th meeting, Mr. Schaefer responded that there will be some, but it will not cover the entire area.

Once the P-FIRMs are complete, FEMA will have an “Overview meeting” with municipal/county staff and elected officials to explain the entire process of the map’s release, review and public input. After that, a Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) meeting is held for municipal/county staff to ask specific questions of FEMA staff, mapping specialists, engineers, etc. Currently, FEMA plans to have two (2) CCO meetings, with towns assigned to one of the two nights. At this phase, comments can only be made on spatial data, i.e. street names, lake names, location of flood mitigation structures, etc. The third set of meetings are “Public Open Houses”; the county will be divided into 3 or 4 groupings, and the public is invited to come see the P-FIRMS.

Once the Public Open House meetings are held, then the 90-day “Appeal Period” opens and specific comments can be made by county, municipal and private citizens. To carry the necessary weight, all dissenting comments need to be accompanied by a certified opinion from a professional (i.e., engineer or surveyor).

- **New Jersey Association of Floodplain Managers (NJAFM) Conference** – Ms. McCulloch will attend the state-level floodplain manager’s conference from October 20-22 and will advise the FMC of any pertinent information/trends discussed.
- **Great Swamp Watershed - Municipal Alliance presentation** – on November 10th, Ms. McCulloch will be making a presentation on flooding in NJ and the MC Flood Mitigation Program to the Municipal Alliance, a consortium of municipalities.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:45 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Ted Eppel, 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 6:10 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

The following action was taken:

- **Boonton Township – Harrison Street Project Area – Grant Extension Request** - On a motion by Ted Eppel, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the committee granted a 6-month extension on the grant funding for this project area; the new expiration date is June 27, 2016.
- **Lincoln Park – 4021 Project Area – Grant Extension Request** - On a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the committee granted a second, and final, 6-month extension on the grant funding for this project area; the new expiration date is April 26, 2016.
- **Lincoln Park – Target Area Expansions – South and Central Project Areas** – On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee approved the addition of properties to the South and Central Project Areas in Lincoln Park’s Flood Acquisition Plan.
- **Resolution 2015-13 – Parsippany-Troy Hills – East Parsippany 2 – Preliminary Approval** - Application for two properties for a total of \$333,613, with an estimated match of \$96,667 derived from homeowner’s donation of value. On a motion by Gary Large,

seconded by Ted Eppel, the committee granted Preliminary Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

- **Resolution 2015-14 – Long Hill-Gillette – 95 Madison Avenue – Final Approval - CORE** acquisition funding in the amount of \$393,750 to cover Morris County’s 75% cost-share and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with Long Hill be executed. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Paula Danchuk, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to review.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ted Eppel, 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, November 16th 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