

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
Via WebEx - Events
January 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Virginia Michelin, Program Coordinator.

Members present:

Louise Davis (*Arrived 5:57pm*)*

Betty Cass-Schmidt *

Andrew Crawford

Tom Pepe

Joseph Pawelczyk

Gary Large

*Members with asterisk only listened in via audio.

Members with an excused absence

Julie Baron

Also attending:

Joseph Barilla, Director, Office of Planning & Preservation

Virginia Michelin, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Office of Planning & Preservation

Mike DiGiulio, Senior Planner, Office of Planning & Preservation

Jason Rotter, Assistant Planner, Office of Planning & Preservation

John Napolitano Esq., Legal Counsel

Deena Leary, Assistant County Administrator

Stephen Shaw, Commissioner Director

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Virginia Michelin 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

- **Reappointed Members:** Virginia Michelin thanked Louise Davis for volunteering to serve for another term on the Flood Mitigation Committee. Ms. Davis was reappointed by the County Commissioners for another term.
- **Election of Officers:** On a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Tom Pepe, the Committee elected Louise Davis to be the FMC Chair by a unanimous verbal vote. On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Gary Large, the Committee elected Thomas Pepe to be the FMC Vice-Chair by a unanimous verbal vote. Tom Pepe assumed control of the meeting.
- **Member Roster [see email attachment]:** FMC members were provided with a roster of current members, county staff and Commissioner liaisons.
- **2021 Meeting Dates [see email attachment]:** Meetings will be held of the 3rd Monday of the month, at 5:30 pm via WebEx until further notice. There are three exceptions: meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of the month for February 2021; The December 2021 and January 2022 meetings will be held the 2nd Monday of the month. The meeting schedule is as follows:

February 22, 2021
May 17, 2021
August 16, 2021
November 15, 2021

March 15, 2021
June 21, 2021
September 20, 2021
December 13, 2021

April 19, 2021
July 19, 2021
October 18, 2021
January 10, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

- Virginia discussed Resolution 2021-1, which provides guidance for holding Committee meetings remotely via WebEx for the duration of the Governor-issued state of emergency related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (Executive Order issued in the fall). The resolution includes procedures for the public to access the meetings and make comments. On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Gary Large, the Committee adopted the resolution by unanimous roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Virginia read the Virtual Meeting Statement based on the newly adopted procedures (Resolution 2021-1) related to members of the public attending the meeting and/or making comments. There were no members of the public present.

Commissioner Director Stephen Shaw commented on the Program's accomplishments and thanked Committee members for their ongoing efforts. The Flood Mitigation Program is a great asset to the residents of Morris County. Commissioner Director Shaw is currently the Commissioner liaison to the Office of Planning & Preservation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, which was seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the Committee approved said Minutes. The closed session minutes were reviewed and on a motion by Gary Large, which was seconded by Andrew Crawford, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Virginia Michelin provided the following updates:

- **FEMA pFIRMS / SRPs** – FEMA indicated to Virginia that although three towns – Lincoln Park, Pequannock and Montville won their appeals of the pFIRMs (as decided by the SRPs - <https://floodsrp.org/panels/>), FEMA may be seeking to redo the maps with a consultant. It is expected that the development of maps and associated public review could take several years to complete, with no estimated end date at this time (overall map revision process has been ongoing since 2017). Virginia also asked FEMA about the timeframe for adoption of pFIRMs in the rest of the municipalities. FEMA stated that as of this time they have not decided whether the maps for other towns throughout the County will be adopted before the maps for Lincoln Park, Pequannock and Montville are complete. Virginia will continue reaching out to FEMA and provide the Committee with updates.
- **NJDEP PMR** – Virginia had no update. Will check with NJDEP at the next CRS Users Group Meeting.

- **CRS Users Group** – [Link](#) - The group has been meeting remotely, most recently in November and the next meeting will be February 16th. The NJDEP will be presenting on model floodplain management ordinances for municipalities to adopt. Virginia will update the Committee on new information regarding the ordinances.
- **NFIP / Risk Rating 2.0** – [Link](#) - NFIP was reauthorized last September for another year, until September 2021. Risk Rating 2.0 has been pushed back to October 2021. No reforms have been adopted for the NFIP.
- **USACE Technical Assistance** – Rutgers Extension Staff have completed a conceptual plan for restoration work in two areas of Lincoln Park. Virginia stated that the post-acquisition restoration team (USACE, Lincoln Park Borough, Rutgers, NJDEP and Morris County) will have a summary document ready in late February or early March of all efforts completed so far including the conceptual plans for Lincoln Park and next steps to take in the process, including potential open space acquisition.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:56 pm, on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, 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 6:06pm, on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Tom Pepe, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Funds Extension Request – Lincoln Park – Central – 79 Woodlawn Rd** – Request to extend the expiration date for the project area by 6 months from April 25, 2021 to October 25, 2021. On a motion by Gary Large, seconded by Tom Pepe, the Committee unanimously granted the extension. This is the first of two possible funds extensions for this project area.
- **Funds Extension Request – Lincoln Park – South-4 – 1 property acquired, 4 remaining** – Request to extend the expiration date for the project area by 6 months from April 25, 2021 to October 25, 2021. On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Andrew Crawford, the Committee unanimously granted the extension. This is the first of two possible funds extensions for this project area.
- **Resolution 2021-02 – Lincoln Park – South-10 Project Area – 52 Riveredge Road – Preliminary Approval** – Application for one property for a total of \$270,000, with an estimated match of \$67,500 from a NJDEP Green Acres grant. On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Gary Large, the Committee granted Preliminary Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Tom Pepe, seconded by Andrew Crawford, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via WebEx Events.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Michelin, CFM, AICP