

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
30 Schuyler Place – 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
January 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Christine Marion, Director.

Members present:

Julie Baron	Thomas Pepe
Andrew Crawford	Louise Davis
Gary Large	

Members with an excused absence

Betty Cass-Schmidt
Joseph Pawelczy

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
Stephen Shaw, Freeholder, Liaison

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Christine Marion 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

- **Election of Officers:** On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Gary Large, the committee elected Louise Davis to be the FMC Chair by a unanimous verbal vote. Chair Davis assumed control of the meeting. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Gary Large, the committee elected Thomas Pepe to be the FMC Vice-Chair by a unanimous verbal vote.
- **Member Roster [handout, inside binder pocket]:** FMC members were provided with a roster of current members and Freeholder liaisons.
- **2019 Meeting Dates [handout, inside binder pocket]:** Meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month, at 5:30 pm in the 2nd Floor Conference room of the Schuyler building, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey. There are three exceptions: meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of the months of February 2019 and January 2020; The August 2019 meeting will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month. The meeting schedule is as follows:

February 25, 2019
May 20, 2019
August 12, 2019
November 18, 2019

March 18, 2019
June 17, 2019
September 16, 2019
December 16, 2019

April 15, 2019
July 15, 2019
October 21, 2019
January 27, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENT

Freeholder Stephen Shaw discussed his recent appointment to the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and his professional background along with interest in the Office of Planning and Preservation. He was previously on the Open Space Trust Committee and currently is the Freeholder liaison to Department of Public Works.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 26, 2018 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Tom Pepe, the Committee approved said Minutes. The closed session minutes were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Tom Pepe, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Virginia Michelin provided the following updates:

- FEMA review and resolution of ongoing appeals – 3 letters containing comments regarding applications from Montville Township, Dover, and Rockaway Township. The letters explained that appeals made to the preliminary flood insurance rate maps (FIRMS) did not satisfy the requirements of an appeal and that Letter(s) of Map Amendment (LOMA) can be submitted after the FIRMS are finalized. The more complicated appeal responses (Lincoln Park, Pequannock and Montville) should be coming soon. At this point the pFIRMS are tentatively scheduled to be effective in the late fall / early winter of 2020.
- CRS Users Group – Virginia sent the graphic showing ratings and savings last week to the group and is waiting to hear back, and then it will be posted on the Morris County CRS Users Group website. Parsippany is in the process of getting back into the program. The US Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets will be presenting on their program and some projects they are working on around the region at the next CRS meeting, February 19th.
- NFIP update – Congress passed another extension through May 31st without any revisions/reforms, but hopefully by May there are reforms in the program.
- Rule revisions
 - As discussed at last FMC meeting, the tax lien revision will be put on hold. Virginia is going to discuss the possibility of municipalities buying tax liens without FMP monies to help prevent the cycle of house flipping and chasing new owners. There are concerns that a tax lien is considered a “foreclosure” and not voluntary which runs contrary to the program. No clear idea on how to utilize program to prevent tax lien sales and continual flipping of property (ies).
 - A FEMA [guidance document](#) stated that homes valued at \$276,000 or less can automatically be considered to be cost-efficient to acquire; This will be addressed in an official FMP rule change.
 - The language “appraisal policy” will be changed as it is actually a collection of documents relating to appraisal procedures and not a separate policy document. This

will hopefully be completed by the next meeting in February.

- State Police update – The NJ Office of Emergency Management has unencumbered funds for Superstorm Sandy which they want to repurpose for buyouts. As Morris County has a buyout MATCH Program making it an attractive option for the OEM, we are hoping to receive grant money to assist with acquisitions. Together with the OEM we should be able to reach close to current market value on remaining properties in order to encourage homeowners to participate in the program. The County will be meeting with the State Police next week to discuss this in more detail (priority lists, DOB, deadlines, paperwork etc.). This would need to be approved by the Freeholders before we can accept the funds. Initial estimates put the potential funding at ~\$3.2 million

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:46pm, on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Gary Large, 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 Gary Large, 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:

- **Resolution 2019-01 – Lincoln Park – South-6 Project Area – 65 Lincoln Boulevard – Preliminary Approval** – Application for one property for a total of \$90,000, with an estimated match of \$22,500 from a NJDEP Green Acres grant. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Gary Large, the Committee granted unanimous Preliminary Approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no new correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Thomas Pepe, seconded by Julie Baron, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25, 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