

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
Via WebEx - Events
February 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Louise Davis, Chair.

Members present:

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| Louise Davis | Julie Baron |
| Betty Cass-Schmidt | Joseph Pawelczyk |
| Gary Large (<i>Arrived 5:42pm</i>) | Andrew Crawford |
| Mark Venis | |

Also attending:

Virginia Michelin, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Office of Planning & Preservation
Joseph Barilla, Planning Director, Office of Planning & Preservation
Mike DiGiulio, Senior Planner, Office of Planning & Preservation
Brenda Haycock, Planner Trainee, Office of Planning and Preservation
John Napolitano Esq., Legal Counsel
Stephen Shaw, Commissioner Liaison

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Louise 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Louise Davis introduced Mark Venis, a new member of the Flood Mitigation Committee. All present introduced themselves to Mark.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Louise Davis read the Virtual Meeting Statement related to members of the public attending the meeting and/or making comments. There was one member of the public present. They made no comment.

Joseph Barilla mentioned the Office of Planning and Preservation had an inquiry from a member of the public about the County extending the flood wall in Lake Hiawatha. The Office of Planning and Preservation responded that the flood wall is not a responsibility of the Flood Mitigation Program as the program focuses on land acquisition. The member of the public was referred to the municipality, NJDEP, NJOEM, and FEMA.

Louise Davis inquired whether the next Flood Mitigation Committee meeting will be held in person or virtually. Commissioner Stephen Shaw responded that the County is still acquiring funds and equipment to set up the hybrid model for future meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 10, 2022 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 Julie Baron, the

Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Virginia Michelin provided the following updates:

- **FEMA Maps**
 - **pFIRMs** – NJDEP (DEP) stated the tentative date for 36 out of 39 Morris County communities to receive a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) is in May of this year. If the LFD does come out in May 2022, pFIRMs become effective in November of 2022. Municipalities have 6 months to adopt the code coordinated ordinance put out by the NJDEP. Virginia will provide updates to the Flood Mitigation Committee on when the LFD comes out.
 - **SRPs** – The three SRP towns include Lincoln Park, Montville, and Pequannock. The DEP stated that the tentative effect date for these SRP towns is late 2023. The DEP did not state when the preliminary maps were coming out, but instead gave an adopted timeframe. Virginia will continue following up with the DEP and FEMA and provide updates to the Flood Mitigation Committee.
 - **NJDEP PMR** – The NJDEP is working on physical/partial map revisions for the 31 out of the 39 towns in the County. Preliminary maps are tentatively scheduled for late 2022. The 8 towns that are not a part of the study include Chester Borough, Mountain Lakes, Kinnelon, Butler, Riverdale, Pequannock, Lincoln Park, and Chatham Borough. The other 31 towns have some changes due to these maps.
 - **Raritan River Risk Map Study** – On February 3, 2022, FEMA held a kick off meeting that the county staff attended. FEMA stated they are reaching out to all Raritan River communities to see if there are any other issues or problems that were not discussed in the previous maps. FEMA also indicated doing other outreach and scoping meetings in other communities, which will most likely be in the Passaic River Basin. There is no time frame for when FEMA is looking to engage in the study, but they're currently doing outreach. Virginia will keep the committee updated on the Raritan River risk map study, and if/when outreach begins in the Passaic River or Delaware Basin communities.
- **CRS Users Group – February 15** – The CRS Users Group met February 15, 2022. It was the first joint CRS meeting where Monmouth, Morris, and Middlesex Counties all met, totaling about 80 attendees. Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) consultant, Paul Osman, discussed the DART program – a mutual aid program for communities that are flooded. The DEP is trying to get the program off the ground, so additional meetings and outreach will help set up the DART program between communities. The next CRS meeting is scheduled for May.
- **NFIP Update – Risk Rating 2.0** – The NFIP was extended to February 18, 2022, and now to March 11, 2022. There have been no reform updates, but efforts to pass NFIP reforms are ongoing. Virginia will keep following any NFIP updates.
 - **Risk Rating 2.0** – FEMA released a presentation on Risk Rating 2.0. Rates for existing policies become effective April 2022. Rates for new policies went into effect October 2021.
- **Ida Funding** – NJOEM hired a consultant to help municipalities with grant funding. This is being done statewide, but none of the Morris County Communities have availed themselves to the Ida Funding. Virginia will inform the committee if any changes occur. Virginia noted that having a consultant to help communities for grant applications is great step moving forward.
- **Pre-calculated Benefits/BCA** – The FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) policy was updated. When this policy was first instituted, house values for each acquisition was \$276,000. Based on the revised policy, it is now \$323,000. Houses in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) worth \$323,000 are automatically considered cost beneficial. A multiplier is applied for New Jersey since cost prices are higher than nationwide averages. Therefore, \$323,000 raises to \$461,000.

Virginia noted these are 2020 numbers and will continue reaching out to NJOEM to get 2022 values adjusted for inflation.

- **ISAA Agreement** – An agreement with FEMA for duplications of benefits (DOB) data. FEMA released a new template in December 2021 that Virginia filled out and submitted. Virginia has not heard back from FEMA and continues reaching out. Hopefully, the form will be returned this year, so it can be executed at the County and sent back.
- **10 Year Anniversary** – It is the 10th anniversary of the Flood Mitigation Program. Commissioners created the program on March 14, 2012, and the first Flood Mitigation Committee meeting was April 16, 2012, where current members Julie Baron and Louise Davis were present. Virginia mentioned Louise Davis has been on the committee for the entire time and Julie Baron has been on the committee for the entire time, with the exception of one year. Virginia thanked Julie Baron and Louise Davis for their help and involvement in the FMP.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:48 pm, on a motion by Joe Pawelczyk, seconded by Julie Baron, 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 5:56 pm, on a motion by Joe Pawelczyk, seconded by Julie Baron, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution #2022-01 – Lincoln Park – South-12 Project Area – Preliminary Approval** – Application for one property for a total of \$260,000, with an estimated match of \$65,000 from NJDEP Green Acres grant. On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Julie Baron, the committee granted Preliminary Approval by unanimous roll call vote.
- **Resolution #2022-02 – Lincoln Park – South-11 Project Area – Final Approval** – CORE acquisition funding in the amount of \$187,500 to cover Morris County's 75% cost-share and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with Lincoln Park be executed. On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Gary Large, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Julie Baron, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:01 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled March 21st at 5:30 p.m. via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Michelin, CFM, AICP, PP