

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
September 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by FMC Vice Chair Thomas Pepe.

Members present:

Betty Cass-Schmidt	Joseph Pawelczyk
Gary Large	Thomas Pepe
Michael Obremski	

Members with an excused absence

Andrew Crawford
Louise Davis

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Department of Planning & Public Works
Christine Marion, Director, Planning & Preservation Division
Jennifer McCulloch, Coordinator, Flood Mitigation Program, Office of Planning & Preservation

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Vice Chair Thomas Pepe 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 August 21, 2017 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Joe Pawelczyk, which was seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. McCulloch provided the following updates:

- **Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (pFIRMs)** – FEMA release revised maps for five municipalities (Parsippany, Lincoln Park, Montville, Pequannock and East Hanover) on August 22nd. Morris County’s remaining 34 municipalities’ maps remained the same and thus were not re-released. There appear to be significant errors on the Morris County maps at their intersection with Wayne’s revised maps – especially when looking at Base Flood Elevation (BFE) measurements. For example, *document A* shows a comparison of Pequannock’s February 2016 FIRM and Aug 2017 FIRM. Pequannock has over 300 homes newly mapped into the Special Flood Hazard Area. Pequannock plans to appeal the maps. Staff has requested that FEMA add an address locator function to their Morris County FIRM website.

- **CRS Assistance Program** – the CRS User Group met on August 22nd. It was well attended with representatives from FEMA, NJ-Dept. of Environment Protection, our Insurance Services/CRS Specialist, and municipal officials - including Parsippany, which is considering re-joining the CRS Program and our CRS User Group.

There were two presentations. Andrew Martin of FEMA spoke about the pFIRMS being released with a robust Question & Answer period. The Risk Reduction Plus Group provided an overview of elevation certificates and an NFIP update.

Main discussion topics:

- Watershed Management Plan (WMP) – after discussions with CRS’s WMP reviewer, we may be able to obtain a waiver that will allow us to not include the Pequannock Watershed in our WMP; as such, the project may be feasible now. A request has been filed, we are waiting to hear if it’s approved.
- Regional Program for Public Information (PPI) - discussions continue about forming a sub-committee to develop a regional PPI, we are currently assessing if the CRS points justify the level of work involved.

Release of the revised Preliminary FIRM maps has overshadowed all other CRS endeavors and projects, given the importance of these maps for residents. The next step is FEMA meetings with Community Officials, and two Open House meetings with residents which will hopefully take place in early November.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:45 p.m., on a motion by Joe Pawelczyk, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, 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 Joe Pawelczyk, seconded by Gary Large, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution 2017-06 – Lincoln Park – Central-3 Project Area – 34 Forest Avenue – Final Approval** - CORE acquisition funding in the amount of \$71,250 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 Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Thomas Pepe, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.
- **Rules and Regulation revisions - Subsequent Owners** – on a motion by Thomas Pepe, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk the proposed revisions to the FMP Rules and Regulations were unanimously approved, and will be recommended to the Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- **Rules and Regulation revisions - Definition of Acquisition** – on a motion by Thomas Pepe, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk the proposed revisions to the FMP Rules and Regulations were unanimously approved, and will be recommended to the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to address.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Mike Obremski, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2017 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