

**MINUTES**  
**Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)**  
**Via WebEx - Events**  
**January 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mike DiGiulio.

Members present:

Louise Davis	Julie Baron *
Betty Cass-Schmidt	Joseph Pawelczyk
Mark Venis ( <i>arrived 5 :38 pm</i> )	

\*Members with asterisk only listened in via audio.

Also attending:

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

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

Mike DiGiulio 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:** Mike DiGiulio thanked Betty Cass-Schmidt for serving another three-year term on the Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC). Betty Cass-Schmidt was reappointed by the County Commissioners. There are currently two vacancies on the FMC. The committee is actively looking for volunteers to fill these positions. Mike DiGiulio encouraged the committee members to suggest any people of interest. Stephen Shaw, Commissioner Liaison, stated that himself and other commissioners are talking to a few individuals for the positions. He is confident that the spots will be filled soon. Commissioner Shaw then thanked the members of the FMC for serving another year. He also thanked Betty Cass-Schmidt for serving another three-year term and for her service to the county on many different fronts.
- **Election of Officers:** On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Joe Pawelczyk, the Committee elected Louise Davis to be the FMC Chair by a unanimous verbal vote. Louise Davis assumed control of the meeting. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joe Pawelczyk, the Committee elected Betty Cass-Schmidt to be the FMC Vice-Chair by a unanimous verbal vote.
- **Member Roster:** Mike DiGiulio will send the roster when the new members are appointed.

- **2022 Meeting Dates [see email attachment]:** Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, at 5:30 pm via WebEx until further notice. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joe Pawelczyk, the meeting dates were accepted. The June 2023, November 2023, December 2023, and January 2024 meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month and the February meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. The meeting schedule is as follows:

<u>February 27, 2023</u>	March 20, 2023	April 17, 2023
May 15, 2023	<i>June 12, 2023</i>	July 17, 2023
August 21, 2023	September 18, 2023	October 16, 2023
<i>November 13, 2023</i>	<i>December 12, 2023</i>	<i>January 8, 2024</i>

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Louise Davis read the Virtual Meeting Statement related to members of the public attending the meeting and/or making comments. There were no members of the public present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the October 17, 2022 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Joe Pawelczyk, the Committee approved said Minutes. The closed session minutes were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Joe Pawelczyk, the Committee approved said Minutes.

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mike DiGiulio provided the following updates:

- **FEMA Maps**
  - **pFIRMs/SRP** – The Letters of Final Determination (LFD) for the pFIRMs were scheduled to be issued by the end of October 2022, and the SRP towns preliminary issuance was scheduled for the first quarter of 2023. Mike DiGiulio and Virginia Michelin spoke with individuals at the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJFAM) conference in October 2022, where they were informed that both maps will be further delayed. Joe Pawelczyk asked Mike if he knows the tentative release date for the maps in 2023. Virginia stated FEMA may be combining the maps to be released together. Joe Pawelczyk brought up how this delay is an impediment for the actions the Flood Mitigation Committee must take.
  - **NJDEP PMR** – Preliminary issuance of the PMR maps is scheduled for the second quarter of 2023. Mike will update the committee on any changes to the release dates.
- **CRS Users Group – February 21** – The next CRS Users Group meeting is Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Mike is working on getting a speaker for the meeting.
- **NFIP Update** – Congress extended NFIP reauthorization through the end of September 2023. The committee is hoping for a reform at the end of 2023 instead of another short-term reauthorization.
- **NJDEP Blue Acres Funding** – Blue Acres applied for a \$40 million FEMA grant to purchase and demolish homes impacted by Hurricane Ida. The application includes 20 communities within 8 counties in the state. This grant included Lincoln Park. Lincoln Park notified the Flood Mitigation Program (FMP) that there are seven properties being looked at.
- **NJDEP Inland Flood Protection Rule** – The Inland Flood Protection Rule attempts to mitigate future stormwater runoff and flooding. It will require the use of new/future projected

rainfall data. It will also add an additional 2 ft. to NJDEP's design flood elevation. Anything within the floodplain that requires DEP review requires these standards to be met. NJDEP is holding a public hearing on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm regarding this rule.

- **Denville USACE Study** – A draft of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Denville study planned release date is by the end of March 2023. Afterwards, there will be a 30-day public review. The final report should be issued by the end of November 2023.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 5:52 pm, on a motion by Julie Baron, 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 5:58 pm, on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Julie Baron, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Letters to Towns** – Mike informed the committee he will be sending letters to all 39 municipalities to remind the municipalities that the FMP is an available resource for them. This letter is intended to gauge interest and to engage municipalities already enrolled in the program. Mike hopes to admit more municipalities into the program and to keep the FMP at the forefront of their minds, so when a flooding event does occur, they know about the program or are already participating in the program.

**New Assistant County Administrator** – Stephen

Shaw, Commissioner Liaison introduced the new assistant county administrator, Brian Murray. Brian worked as the County Communications Director prior to his promotion. Commissioner Shaw informed the FMC that somebody new will be filling Brian's prior position in communications, and they will be able to help the FMP raise awareness to local communities. The FMC congratulated Brian Murray on his new position.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting is scheduled February 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike DiGiulio, CFM, AICP, PP | Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator

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**Closed Session**

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John Napolitano Esq., Legal Counsel

Stephen Shaw, Commissioner Liaison

Brian Murray, Assistant County Administrator

Closed Session was called to order by Chair Louise Davis.

**STAFF REPORT**

• **Project Updates:**

○ **Dover and Parsippany Outreach**

- No updates, but both municipalities have new administrators. Hopefully the new administrators resume talks with the FMP. The FMP wants to get Dover into the program and Parsippany active in the program again.

The FMP had their biannual meeting with Lincoln Park Borough on December 22, 2022.

○ **Lincoln Park – South-4 – 185 Riveredge Rd**

- Reimbursed soft costs. Mike to close out.

○ **Lincoln Park – South-8 – 120 Riveredge Rd**

- Waiting on soft cost reimbursement request from Lincoln Park.

○ **Lincoln Park – South-9 – 1 Poplar St**

- Waiting on soft cost reimbursement request from Lincoln Park.

○ **Lincoln Park – South-10 – 52 Riveredge Rd**

- The house was sold to a private individual. Lincoln Park informed Mike to

close it out.

- **Lincoln Park – South-11 – 3 properties**
  - There are two (2) properties that Mike is waiting on soft cost reimbursement requests for.
- **Lincoln Park – South 12 – 195 Riveredge Rd**
  - Waiting on a demolition date from Lincoln Park.
- **Lincoln Park – South 13 – Preliminary Approval – 179 Riveredge Rd**
  - Lincoln Park and Mike are sorting out the DOB issues with this property.
- **Lincoln Park – Blue Acres Funding**
  - Betty Cass-Schmidt inquired if the program will be adding seven new homes to the program in response to the Blue Acres funding available to Lincoln Park from Hurricane Ida. Mike clarified that 100% of the acquisition costs for those seven properties should be covered by blue acres. If the Borough needs additional funding, the FMP will provide it. The FMP would most likely provide funding through the Match program as a secondary funder.
- **Funding – Monthly Funding** – Mike discussed the 2022 annual financial summary, noting that 2 homes closed last year in the South 11 and South 12 project areas. Multiple soft cost reimbursement requests were also completed in 2022. In total, \$482,906.03 was spent in 2022. In the 10 years of this program, 86 homes have been acquired, and just under \$10 million spent.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mike DiGiulio, CFM, AICP, PP | Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator