

**MINUTES**  
**Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)**  
**Via WebEx - Events**  
**January 10, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Virginia Michelin, Program Coordinator.

Members present:

Louise Davis	Julie Baron
Betty Cass-Schmidt	Joseph Pawelczyk
Gary Large	Andrew Crawford

Also attending:

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  
Stephen Shaw, Commissioner Liaison

**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 Julie Baron and Joseph Pawelczyk for volunteering to serve for another three year term on the Flood Mitigation Committee. Ms. Baron and Mr. Pawelczyk were reappointed by the County Commissioners for another term. Stephen Shaw, Commissioner Liaison stated that a new member will be appointed at the second regular Board of County Commissioners meeting later this month.
- **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. Louise Davis assumed control of the meeting. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the Committee elected Betty Cass-Schmidt to be the FMC Vice-Chair by a unanimous verbal vote.
- **Member Roster:** Virginia will send the roster when the new member is 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. A request was made to change the February 2022 date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the meeting dates were accepted as amended. Virginia will send the updated dates to the Committee. The November 2022, December 2022, and January 2023 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:

February 28, 2022

March 21, 2022

April 18, 2022

May 16, 2022  
August 15, 2022  
November 14, 2022

June 20, 2022  
September 19, 2022  
December 12, 2022

July 18, 2022  
October 17, 2022  
January 9, 2023

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

## **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.

Commissioner Liaison Stephen Shaw noted the Program's accomplishments and thanked the Committee for their efforts. Commissioner Shaw will remain the Commissioner Liaison to the Office of Planning & Preservation.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the Committee approved said Minutes. The closed session minutes were reviewed and on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, which was seconded by Gary Large, the Committee approved said Minutes.

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

Virginia Michelin provided the following updates:

- **FEMA Maps**
  - **pFIRMs** – FEMA indicated to Virginia that the LFD's previously scheduled for release in December 2021 will be sent out this summer at the earliest. Virginia requested clarification regarding any modifications to the 2017 pFIRMs and whether FEMA will be opening a Public Comment Period, and has not heard back regarding these inquiries. Virginia will continue to reach out to FEMA and NJDEP and provide updates.
  - **SRPs & NJDEP PMR** – Studies are ongoing with no additional updates at this time.
  - **Raritan River Study** – FEMA is planning to conduct a study of the Raritan River Basin, and sent an email to Virginia this past Friday notifying her of the effort. There is currently no start date for the study. FEMA indicated that ongoing mapping efforts (pFIRMs, SRP and NJDEP PMR) will not be impacted. Virginia asked the Committee members to let her know they would like to attend the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting being held by FEMA for the Raritan Basin communities in Morris County.
- **CRS Users Group – Next meeting February 15** – Virginia is coordinating with all 4 CRS Users Groups in the State and has scheduled a joint meeting on the DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) program. The DART's purpose is to train local officials to perform post-flood activities in neighboring towns, enabling communities to share services and offer mutual aid following storms. The NJDEP recently offered DART training and received less interest from NJ communities than anticipated. Virginia will reach out to DART's established in other states including Louisiana, and will provide updates regarding the potential presentation, which will hopefully boost interest among local communities.
- **NFIP Update** – The NFIP has been reauthorized and is tentatively set to expire February 18, 2022. Hopefully reforms will pass and enable longer-term extensions of the Program. Virginia will forward any updates.

- **LEAP Grant** – The NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) recently informed Virginia that the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) grant funding period has been reduced from 3 years to 18 months. The DCA also stated that the application would require additional materials. The County has stopped pursuing the grant for the current application round .. Joseph Barilla and Virginia are regrouping and will reach out to Forerunner and the DCA.
- **Ida Funding** – NJOEM has received FEMA FMA funding. Lincoln Park and Pequannock are applying to utilize available funds for buyouts and elevations. NJOEM informed Virginia that federal funding related to Tropical Storm Ida may be awarded in late 2022 or sometime in 2023.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 5:46pm, on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, 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 5:54pm, on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Andrew Crawford, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Gary Large, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:56pm.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via WebEx.

There were no actions taken as a result of Closed Session deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Michelin, CFM, AICP, PP