

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
Via WebEx - Events
July 18, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Louise Davis, Chair.

Members present:

Louise Davis	Mark Venis (<i>Arrived 5:34 pm</i>)
Betty Cass-Schmidt	Joseph Pawelczyk
Gary Large (<i>Arrived 5:31 pm</i>)	Andrew Crawford (<i>Arrived 5:33 pm</i>)

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 (*Arrived 5:32 pm*)
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.

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 May 16, 2022, meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, which was seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, 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

Mike DiGiulio provided the following updates:

- **FEMA Maps**
 - **pFIRMs/SRP** – The tentative release date for the Letters of Final Determination (LFD) for the pFIRMs was set for May. During the CRS meeting on May 17, Joe Ruggeri from NJDEP (DEP) announced the new tentative release date for the LFD to be in the fall of 2022. FEMA may release updates for the SRP towns in the fall as well. FEMA may not require hearings or meetings for public comment before the tentative release date because the SRP towns are meeting with them on a regular basis.
 - **NJDEP PMR** – FEMA is trying to avoid delaying the release of the LFD. Currently, FEMA is reviewing the H&H models and DEP is addressing comments. FEMA is

looking to early 2023 to release PMR maps.

- **CRS Users Group – August 16** – The next CRS Users Group meeting is Tuesday, August 16, 2022. Rebecca Jones and Kenya Lovill from DEP will be giving a presentation on the newly released draft Floodplain Administrator’s Guidebook.
- **NFIP Update** – Congress is working on NFIP reauthorization. In the past couple of months, both the House and the Senate held hearings. The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) testified at both. In June, the Biden administration sent a legislative package to Congress detailing things they want accomplished. This included nationwide mandatory disclosure, items regarding private insurance, and NFIP denying coverage for problematic properties and new developments.
- **ISAA Agreement** – The form was approved and signed at the County level. It was sent back to FEMA to have their final approval. Once FEMA approves, they will send the necessary data.
- **Denville USACE Study** – A meeting was tentative for late May/early June, but the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) postponed it to late July/early August.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:39 pm, on a motion by Mark Venis, 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 6:00 pm, on a motion by Andrew Crawford, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution #2022-04 – Lincoln Park – South-12 Project Area – Final Approval** – CORE acquisition funding in the amount of \$165,000 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 Gary Large, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Wildflower Mix Reimbursement – During the FMP’s biannual meeting with Lincoln Park, discussions were had about the spreading of wildflower seed instead of grass seed after demolition to help reduce maintenance of the site and to help restore to a natural state. Mike DiGiulio inquired if the committee would be open to reimburse the purchase of wildflower seed mix. Betty Cass-Schmidt brought up cost concerns. Virginia Michelin responded there would be minimal price difference between the seed mixes. Virginia also added wildflowers need mowing twice a year, whereas grass needs mowing twice a week and the wildflowers create a pollinator habitat. Joe Pawelczyk brought up previous meetings where the committee decided to leave the open spaces in their natural state with no cultivation efforts. Louise responded that the committee is still responsible for stabilizing the ground after demolition and invasive species usually appear when these spaces are left alone. Louise Davis inquired if a vote would be required for this or if this discussion was enough. Virginia stated that she spoke with John Napolitano and due to the similarities between the mixes, a vote would not be needed. The committee agreed to

reimburse Lincoln Park Borough for wildflower seed as an alternative to grass seed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Gary Large, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:06 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled August 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,

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