

**MINUTES**  
**Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)**  
**Via WebEx - Events**  
**July 15, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Louise Davis.

Members present:

Louise Davis

Julie Baron\*

Betty Cass-Schmidt

Larry Ragonese

\*Members with asterisk only listened in via audio.

Also attending:

Joseph Barilla, Planning Director, Office of Planning & Preservation

Virginia Michelin, Assistant Planning Director, Office of Planning & Preservation

Mike DiGiulio, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Office of Planning & Preservation

Brenda Haycock, Assistant Planner, 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.

**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. Betty Cass-Schmidt put forth a motion to close the public comment period, which was seconded by Julie Baron.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Larry Ragonese requested his attendance be recorded in the March 18, 2024 minutes. Larry was present via phone call but was not able to speak. John Napolitano, Legal Counsel, approved the adjustment to the minutes. The Minutes of the March 18, 2024 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**

Mike DiGiulio provided the following updates:

- **FEMA Maps**
  - **SRP** – SRP maps are in the appeal period. The period began on May 10<sup>th</sup> and goes through August 8<sup>th</sup>. Approval of the maps is anticipated to be at the end of 2024 or beginning of 2025.
  - **pFIRMS/NJDEP PMR** – No additional updates. FEMA and NJDEP are still scheduled to combine the pFIRMS and PMR maps. NJDEP anticipates the appeal

period for these maps to be spring 2025 and approval at the end of 2025. Larry Ragonese asked what is delaying the process. Mike responded FEMA is still reviewing data for approval; FEMA does not specify where they are in this process.

- **CRS Users Group – August 20<sup>th</sup>** – The next CRS Users Group is in-person on August 20<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Park. The presenter is Carrie Martin from NJIT. Carrie runs a technical assistance program for municipalities in NJ looking to get help with grant funding from federal agencies for climate resiliency initiatives.
- **NFIP Update** – Extended until Sept 30, 2024. There are no updates on the Insure Act since its introduction in January. Larry Ragonese asked Mike about the perception of the insurance holders. He continued to ask if people will lose their insurance or is this just a congressional process that goes on forever. Mike agreed with Larry that this is a long and ongoing congressional process. Virginia added this is about the 17<sup>th</sup> extension; It has been going on for at least 5 years. Mike continued many homeowners switched to private insurance because it has become cheaper in some areas due to Risk Rating 2.0.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 5:49 pm, on a motion by Larry Ragonese, 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 Julie Baron, 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 #2024-02 – Pequannock – Pequannock Ave-2 Project Area – Final Approval** – CORE acquisition funding in the amount of \$270,000 to cover Morris County's 75% cost-share and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with Pequannock be executed. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Larry Ragonese, the committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:00 pm.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting is scheduled August 19th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,

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