

**MINUTES**  
**Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)**  
**30 Schuyler Place – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Morristown, New Jersey**  
**March 18, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 p.m. by Louise Davis, Chair.

Members present:

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

Members with an excused absence

Tom Pepe	Gary Large
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Also attending:

Christine Marion, Director, Office of Planning & Preservation  
Virginia Michelin, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Office of Planning & Preservation  
Jason Rotter, Assistant Planner, Office of Planning & Preservation

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

Chair 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**

There were no members of the public present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Andrew Crawford, the Committee approved said Minutes. The closed session minutes were reviewed and on a motion by Julie Baron, which was seconded by Andrew Crawford, the Committee approved said Minutes.

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

Virginia Michelin provided the following updates:

- **FEMA review and resolution of appeals** – FEMA responded to appeals of the draft pFIRMs, submitted by Lincoln Park Borough, Pequannock Township and Montville Township. FEMA thanked the municipalities for their input but felt the technical information was inadequate or not appealable. Pequannock Township is appealing FEMA’s decision and submitting a request to FEMA to have their application reviewed by the Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP), which is convened by FEMA to resolve disputes.
  - The adoption of pFIRMs will most likely be pushed back from the end of 2019 / early 2020 until mid-2020 based on the SRP process, possibly later.

- **CRS Users Group** – Met February 19<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>
- **NFIP Update**
  - Current extension of NFIP expires May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019
  - Congress’s House Financial Services Committee is meeting and determining methods to make the NFIP more sustainable including the potential for certain aspects of the program to be privatized in addition to other reforms
  - Technical Mapping Advisory Council – Currently no quorum to vote on anything, hopefully people will be appointed soon as Congress’ subcommittees are currently meeting
- **Rule revisions** – Reflects changes to include FEMA policies relating to benefit-cost analysis for substantially damaged properties and homes less than or equal to \$276,000, in addition to wording changes. The FEMA policies only apply to houses in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the committee unanimously approved the FMP rule revisions. It will now go to the Freeholders for approval.
- **NJOEM Grant** – The County met with Chris Testa of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and decided not to apply for the grant. More information was needed than originally anticipated and the County would have needed a consultant.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 5:39pm, on a motion by Joseph 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 5:54pm, on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Flood Acquisition Plan (FLAP)** – As discussed in closed session the FLAP is proposed to be amended. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the Committee unanimously approved the FLAP.
- **Grant Extension Request – Lincoln Park – Central-3 Project Area** –Request to extend the expiration date by 6 months from September 28, 2019 to February 28, 2020. On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Betty Cass-Schmidt, the Committee unanimously granted the extension. This is the first of two possible grant extensions for this project area.
- **Grant Extension Request – Lincoln Park – South-2 Project Area** – Request to extend the expiration date by 6 months from December 14, 2019 to June 14, 2020. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Andrew Crawford, the Committee unanimously granted the extension. This is the first of two possible grant extensions for this project area.

- **Resolution 2019-02 – Lincoln Park – Central-4 Project Area – 46 Forest Avenue – Preliminary Approval** – Application for one property for a total of \$57,500, with an estimated match of \$10,000 from a NJDEP Green Acres grant. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the Committee granted unanimous Preliminary Approval.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no new correspondence.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**NJDEP Partial Map Revision (PMR)** – NJDEP is proposing to make updates to the pFIRMs (appeal period ended May 15, 2018). A map shows the NJDEP’s proposed approximate and detailed future studies of rivers, tributaries and streams throughout the County. The effort seeks to modify the map currently in the appeal period by FEMA by studying waterways which were not studied by FEMA. NJDEP and FEMA are coordinating on this new study. The pFIRMs are set to be finalized in early to mid-2020. The NJDEP’s study will amend the maps again at the county level and will go thru a public notice and appeal process.

**USACE Technical Assistance** – USACE Silver Jackets Interagency Nonstructural Proposal – Rutgers University, NJDEP, Lincoln Park Borough, and Morris County are working together to complete proposal due in April to acquire assistance to develop a plan for areas in Lincoln Park post acquisition.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Andrew Crawford, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Schuyler Building, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Michelin, CFM