

MINUTES
Morris County-Flood Mitigation Committee (MC-FMC)
Via WebEx - Events
March 18, 2024

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

Members present:

Louise Davis	Julie Baron* (<i>Arrived 5:32 pm</i>)
Betty Cass-Schmidt	Joseph Pawelczyk
Larry Ragonese**	

*Members with asterisk only listened in via audio.

**Larry was present via phone call but was not able to speak.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 8, 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 Julie Baron, which was seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Mike DiGiulio provided the following updates:

- **FEMA Maps**
 - **SRP** – The 90-day appeal period is ending for Montville, Pequannock, and Lincoln Park SRP maps. The Letters of Final Determination (LFD) will be issued next. Adoption of the SRP maps will occur 6 months after the release of the LFDs. Expect adoption of the SRP maps by the end of the year.
 - **pFIRMs/NJDEP PMR** – The FEMA partial county wide map updates and NJDEP

PMR maps are still scheduled to be combined sometime next year. Mike DiGiulio will receive additional updates at the next CRS meeting and will update the Committee.

- **CRS Users Group – March 19th** – The next CRS Users Group is March 19th. The Group is meeting in person at Lincoln Park to discuss the last two storm events and storm preparedness for the future.
- **NFIP Update** – The short-term extension for NFIP reauthorization expires March 22nd. Mike DiGiulio anticipates another short-term extension. The last Senate hearing in January provided Senators the opportunity to speak on the importance of the NFIP program. There is also another House resolution introduced in January called the INSURE Act. The INSURE Act phases out the NFIP program and creates a new federal catastrophic re-insurance program for residential and commercial properties. Instead of solely covering flood, it will cover flood, wind, fire, severe storms, and earthquakes. This bill is a response to concerns with insurance becoming unaffordable for many homeowners and many homeowners moving towards private insurance.
- **Flood Disclosure Law** – The Flood Disclosure Law goes into effect March 20th, 2024. This law discloses flood risks to buyers and renters. Sellers of property must disclose specific flood risks with a 20-page disclosure statement that states and acknowledges flood risks of the property. Landlords must also notify tenants if any premise of the property is subject to flooding. Committee member Julie Baron asks if it is the responsibility of the real estate agent to provide the form to sellers/landlords/renters/buyers. Commissioner Stephen Shaw answers yes; the real estate community is prepared to comply with this law and provide the appropriate parties with the correct paperwork just like other disclosure forms in New Jersey.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:41 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 6:00 pm, on a motion by Joseph Pawelczyk, seconded by Julie Baron, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

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

- **Resolution #2024-01 – Lincoln Park – Central 7 Project Area – Final Approval** – CORE acquisition funding in the amount of \$281,250 to cover Morris County's 75% cost-share and a recommendation that the corresponding Grant Agreement with Lincoln Park be executed. The committee granted Final Approval by unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Joseph Pawelczyk, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:02 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled April 15th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,

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