

EBFC MINUTES 3/25/13

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:07 with the following in attendance: M Miller, P Davis, I Kasanof, P Ohsberg, T Pascarella, D Cope, J Biruk, H Friedman, L Reilly, D Budin, L Austin, D Kearney, C O'Beirne, Y Day, K Manuel, D Frazier, P Eskeli, R Weidenbach, G Dutcher, G Samuels, L Davis

There was a brief review of the EBFC Mission; no amendments or suggestions for improvements were given.

Miller raised the question of the reappointment of Town and Village (including planning board members & the MCS appointee) for the Commission should be on record in each entity on an annual basis. This will be included in the April meeting of the Middletown Board as well as the Villages, whose Organizational meeting, Pascarella said are in April.

Kent Manuel, Delaware County Planning gave a brief update re: the FEMA Buyout process. Phase 1 & 2 have been approved verbally, waiting on a letter of confirmation, 12 parcels in Town, 4 in Flmnns, 8 in M'ville, 32 in Sidney – Phase 3 4 in Flmnns, 1 each in Middletown & the Village. A number of these have additionally applied for elevation, this is a voluntary process and either buyout of elevation could occur. 75% of pre-flood assessed value will be offered w NYC generally (still being negotiated) paying the other 25% - NYS historically picking up the other 25% outside the watershed (Sidney), which given the fiscal picture may not happen this time.

DEPs Phil Eskeli (N.B.: pronounced Ess-kell-eye) spoke re: the new FEMA maps process, which has been slightly delayed due to additions to the study. There is over 7 million being spent on this process and he shared a sample map of the Woodstock area for general reference re: what we can expect to see. There is a May 15th meeting for map steering w preliminary maps now due by 8/23/13 (were projected for July) We have until 10/2/13 to respond to the preliminary maps, during which time we will meet w FEMA to review and go through the adoption process. There will also be risk maps done, areas in an out of the flood zone. An open house, one of several that will be held, will occur locally 10/23/13 for the general public to review and respond although invitations (letters generated by FEMA) will primarily go out to property owners affected by these

new maps. LFHM (local flood hazard mitigation) analysis will also be available at this time. In answer to Karasof's question about re-mapping of Halcott, Eskeli said those were done more recently, '08 or '09, and that the Esopus had not been studied since the early 80s.

P Davis spoke to Middletown's request that Delaware County Planning generate an open space map of Middletown and the villages re: municipally owned properties (included NYS and NYC owned lands) w deeds restrictions as a reference for CRS points as those are undevelopable. He added that EWP Projects are mitigation work but won't gain local municipalities points until 2014. Dutcher spoke to Jessica Rall being trained as a Flood Plain Manager as is Kristen at Planning. P Davis also spoke to the work the county has done via resolutions and commitments to flood mitigation and raising flood standards (i.e. resolution for all county-owned bridges to be brought to 100 year flood level if repaired after an event). July or August should see initial CRS visits locally, the process has been held up by Sandy's devastation.

Miller spoke briefly regarding the LFHMA process, which included drafts of the scope of the work to be done by a consultant being brought back to the Town and Village Boards. Their input was added, broadening the scope to include, for example, above Flmnns to the Greene Cty line (previously the study was to end at Lake Switzerland) or below the Village of Margaretville to the 28 bridge by the Old Stone Schoolhouse (previously ended at McIntosh Auction).

Ric Weidenbach of Delaware County Soil & Water spoke at length regarding eh history of the LFHMA process, which was part of a larger post-Irene effort to make sure water quality was tied in to flood mitigation as everyone understands that during and immediately after that kind of event there is a large amount of pollution dumped into the Res; therefore any and all flood mitigation monies/projects can be tied to both helping the local communities remain sustainable as well as preserving water quality. EPA agreed – Delaware County led the way for what is now a 5 county program, with a new entity, Flood Hazard Mitigation Group (including CWT, CWC, Soil & Water etc. & led by Bill Harding, Exec. Director of watershed Protection Partnership), which is developing a regionally applicable plan for a program to address flooding funded by NYC. As of 9/25/12 an overriding document was finished, with multi-jurisdictional & multi-

agency input, for a flood mitigation program to be added to the other programs already working in and for the Watershed. Still in draft form as are our local LFHMA scopes, which ask for the scientific analysis to underpin future program specifics. Weidenbach then gave a very brief historical context of the 1990-present relationship between the City & Delaware County, beginning w 1990 rules/regs within the watershed that were deemed detrimental; since that time the Ag Program, CWC and the MOA have been developed and added, among other programs, all with local participation.

Dutcher spoke to the group about the EWP Projects, which must be completed by 9/15/13, handing out a chart breaking those down. Kasanof asked about funding and payment, re: sponsors of the work; Dutcher said NCRS will reimburse monies expended by the municipalities within 30 days of signing off on completed project and that this needs to be in the specs that contractors receive so that everyone understands the payment process, should the Town need to pay once reimbursed as opposed to upfront. All are being bid as per our individual procurement policies. He explained that EWP is a Federal Program like FEMA; USDA does EWP providing funding on a 75-25 local share match with the local share on these projects being paid by NYC via Soil & Water. \$5 million allocated – they usually do 1.5 million worth of projects per year. EWP usually a 220 day limit on funding – event to completion – we have had 2 extensions. P Davis stated that Middletown (which is sponsoring all of the projects in the town/villages) would want weekly updates on EWP including performance dates as we get through the bidding process and get into construction. Some projects may be able to be grouped. Dutcher also mentioned that we are adding flood plain reclamation, paid for by the DEP, to these EWP projects.

There will be a Public Information meeting will be in May, at MCS beginning, it was discussed and agreed, at 6p.m. The Soil & Water demonstration stream table will be present by popular demand and an invite will go out to Del. County PW & various public figures to attend and speak briefly re: local, county and state flood response and planning. More details to follow.

FEMA Clerks tips and pointers from Sheila Biruk were handed out (and are included at the tail end of these minutes) and a general discussion was held regarding the FEMA process. John Biruk spoke re: planning, making FEMA friendly templates for record keeping,

which he will share w villages & other Towns. He said he learned a lot from Wayne Reynolds – particularly to prioritize projects, get up front info from all contractors, hired to do work, keep and stay on top of daily records and paperwork, get your needed DEC permits immediately. Kasanof spoke to creating a separate accounting code for all FEMA expenditures, which helped her a great deal as did on-line banking and the scanning of all documents – also she mentioned it should be kept in mind that SEMO and FEMA numbers are different, even of identical projects.

Reilly mentioned documenting - with photos – all damage then it is best to fix especially as FEMA estimates, should you chose to wait to do the work, are worthless. Friedman spoke to Mville doing an asset management assessment for the village so that they know what they have, where and in what shape it is in pre-event. P Davis spoke to having one person documenting all damages w a camera. It was agreed we can help local businesses and homeowners by getting them a simple check list either via the Chamber or at our public event for flood insurance damage prep. – as in take photos now of your basement, have a complete inventory list, take photos of your living room and outside of your home at present and immediately after the event – keep up to date inventories and photos. P Davis said Insurance companies should be documenting inside and outside against future claims, but are just catching up to Flood Laws. The meeting was closed at 11:53after brief Q & A with public participants.

Next Meeting is April 29th 10a.m.

EBFC 1st Year List of Accomplishments:

All 3 municipalities entry process begun into FEMA's CRS Program

- Minutes posted on Middletown's website & establishment of readily available Emergency Sub-site

- Libraries in several locations re: CRS and other work

- Flood elevation certificates filed

- LFHM Draft expanded after review by all three boards (M'ville, Flmnns, M'town) and filed

Public Event 8/2012 – picnic & CRS info forum, flood management & recovery updates from all entities (MARK, Fire Departments, villages etc.)

NIMs training in Middletown & Halcott

EWP Projects – regular updates and coordinated work for easements and etc.

Public meetings monthly for a year – public info etc. – these meetings have also been vitally important in creating relationships across municipal boundaries to have better, coordinated response to future natural disasters between town, county & state

Stayed active County process re: LFHM as well as re: new FIRM Maps

Shared info and resources re: Delaware County's All Hazard Mitigation plan

Created an understanding of steps that we as municipalities/elected officials will take to communicate w public & one another if & when disaster strikes

NFIP Resolution passed in villages, Middletown, County that came from EBFC

Buy-out process updates & stayed active in that process including pros & cons of buyouts, hazard mitigation, flood plain development etc.

Wrote & rec'd \$2600 grant money from CFSCNY for Code Enforcement to become Certified Flood Plain Managers (**still available for anyone who wants to take advantage of this)

Wrote & rec'd \$6600.00 in United Way grant money for local Fire Departments & Town toward recovery efforts

Sheila Biruk, Middletown FEMA Clerk, notes regarding FEMA Paperwork & Process

- 1: document all damage and get scope of work to be done. Take pictures before any repairs are started
- 2: make sure all debris removal is listed as to woody, or gravel where it was removed from and how many yards were moved and where it was moved to, (stockpiled or taken to a central location) (such as the one on the cross roads) FEMA requested documentation we didn't have and it was a major issue getting reimbursed after Irene.
- 3: Work closely with all people involved in recovery, making sure to document loans of equipment, people even volunteers
- 4: as work progresses, get details of jobs, materials, equipment and staff. Keeping up on daily input (excel), that way you are always aware of where you stand and how much money has been spent to date.
- 5: Check blue books carefully against work already performed to check for accuracy and to make sure enough money is allocated to finish or reimburse for any repairs.
- 6: Make copies of everything even pre-purchased stockpiled materials, (invoices), cancelled checks, time cards, vouchers, rented equipment contracts. Bid contracts for materials, and rental equipment
- 7: 4 copies of everything, 1 for FEMA, 1 for clerk, 1 for highway super, and lastly, another for FEMA, as they seem to lose files regularly!!!!!!

8,9,10: Document everything; give FEMA nothing unless you have copies. They can calculate what's been done. It just doesn't always jive with our records.