

EBFC Minutes 7/28/14

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Miller at approximately 10:09 with the following present: M Miller, D Cope, T Pascarella, I Kasanof, P Davis, L Reilly, H Grossman, J Rosa, J Biruk, B Birns, J Granito, D Frazier, G Dutcher, R Weidenbach, P Eskeli, C O'Beirne, A Rubin, V Czerko, E Zilihy and Mark Carabetta of Malone & McBroom

Diana Cope began by filling in all present re: the CRZ (Community Recovery Zone) in Margaretville. A firm who specializes in bidding and record keeping, most recently having worked in Louisiana post-Katrina, has been hired. There are still many unknowns but continued public outreach will keep the committee involved even while all project decisions will be made by the Village Board. Carol O'Beirne, committee co-chair, confirmed and a brief discussion of the possibility of Del. County DPW in-kind and local services was had.

Mark Carabetta of Milone & MacBroom, the consultants who are doing Fleischmanns LFA gave a slide show presentation with basic scientific readings of the 3 pedestrian bridge options – this did not include at this time inundation maps, which will give the Flmnns trustees a more complete picture of the various impacts of each choice going forward. The village board meets August 11th and it is possible, given FEMA time constraints, that the flood inundation maps will be able to be available at that time. Carabetta will make sure – via Soil & Water – to get the presentation copy to everyone so that the data can be fully reviewed. There was a lengthy discussion of the bridge, its ownership, the FEMA deadline as well as why the flood levels were shown absent a bridge on that site. Dutcher and Carabetta confirmed that it is a baseline to show the area and flood levels without a bridge/abutments. It was pointed out that the data Milone & MacBroom are collecting is for the village trustees to have the best data possible on which to base their decision making regards whatever they decide to do on Bridge Street and further that the Flood Commission has no role in making that decision, neither does Milone & MacBroom or Del Cty Soil & Water.

Pat Davis gave the following update re: current (Irene & Lee) FEMA buy-

out status: 27 properties in the town (29 tax parcels total) – all appraisals have been finished and most have been surveyed, 2 properties have signed contracts with DEP and others are continuing in the process, no closings have been scheduled yet; Davis also updated where all 3 municipalities are with regard to CRS (Community Ratings System) status, the initial paperwork has been submitted and while there have been substantial changes to the CRS requirements we have enough points to be reviewed. Public outreach has been ongoing – an informational luncheon for local RE salespersons/brokers, insurers and bankers was discussed.

Dean Frazier spoke to and answered questions re: the Voluntary Buy-out program and the alterations to the NYC Water supply permit allowing the purchase of properties by NYC DEP inside the villages and hamlets, which has been a cause for concern. This buy-out program is not related to FEMA but is rather funded in its' entirety by NYC DEP and will be based on LFA (Local Flood Analysis) data. It is meant to go hand-in-hand with a relocation program whose rules are not yet set, nor are the rules for the voluntary buy-out complete, although some agreements have been made. Miller emphasized that as long as a complementary relocation program was not in place, it was very unlikely Middletown would agree to participate in the program, which is voluntary by resolution of the Town Board (or village board). The discussion that followed was primarily speculative as the program and its' parameters are not by any means finalized. Cope emphasized that the CWT Board understand the local communities concerns and is helping create these programs with those concerns very much in mind.

There was no public comment and the meeting was closed at approximately 11:45a.m.

Next Meeting is September 29th 10a.m. in Town Hall