**East Branch Flood Commission**

**10/25/12 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04. Present were commission members:

M Miller, P Ohsberg, I Kasanof, B Stanton, T Pascarella, J Biruk, H Friedman, L Reilly, D Budin, K Von Hassel, S Finch, C O’Beirne, L Austin, Y Day, P Davis, N Delameter, M Jastremski, G Dutcher, R Weidenbach, P Eskeli, D Frazier, G Samuels and two members of the public: L Davis, H Finch & J Hoeko

Patrick Davis, CEO & CRS Coordinator for Middletown updated assembled re: the new flood maps that will be coming out in preliminary form in May 2013 and the implications for the area. Among those is the roll back by FEMA/NFIP of subsidized flood insurance – currently at 30-40% of the cost, which would have severe financial impacts on the region – especially Margaretville w 125 current holders of flood insurance policies (Flmnns has 40 & Middletown 61 – Delaware County as a whole has 1226). The maps would also increase the need for flood insurance in the area as they will, once adopted and therefore made into law, make the flood plain wider, catching more properties. Mike Jestremski of Delaware County Planning concurred and expanded on this; base flood elevations are being increased and it was suggested resolutions on behalf of the our residences be written and shared w regional partners to ask elected officials to keep the subsidized rates, particularly as the Commission is doing the right things in making flood mitigation a priority, especially as regards entering CRS. MM will, w Jestremski, draft a resolution to intro at the Town Bd & Bd of Supervisors as well as sending to both Mayors and the other supervisors/tn boards in the region. A letter template for constituents will also be developed and posted on Middletown’s website.

B Stanton spoke to the nature of this rise in insurance and the devastating effect it could have on the area.

P Davis gave a brief update on the CAV visit for Middletown re: CRS; enrollment happens next March or October and M Jestremski was heard to say we were an ‘easy 8’ on the CRS program for a potential of 10% discount for residences and etc. regarding flood insurance. CRS Insurance Services Organization evaluation will happen in the spring, so more likely we would officially enter the program in October – thereafter reevaluated every 5 years although supporting documentation can be added at will.

R Weidenbach & G Dutcher spoke on the subject of scoping for flood mitigation projects, with D Frazier concurring. Initial projects as the comprehensive study has been down sized to a phased study due to cost and the back and forth negotiations w NYC are A. Fleischmanns and B. Arkville Trailer Park with additional projects (i.e. M’ville business district including Freshtown as well as long terms scoping of entire East Branch Watershed) R Weidenbach and P Eskeli spoke to the need to present the findings of scoping to the community for feedback and a schedule of community meetings, w or without hot toddies, was discussed.

I Kasasof reported that NIMs training was recently held in Halcott with a number of folks attending and a brief discussion was held regarding our community-wide plans for dealing with flooding and mitigation given the potential for Hurricane Sandy to hit the area. P Davis read a Delaware County Emergency Services bulletin to that point.

M Miller spoke of several grants written for mitigation and the Commission’s benefit including FEMAs Community Resilience Challenge grant, submitted this week. United Way of Del & Otsego Counties met this week Wednesday and we should have word on that grant proposal soon.

Pascarella, Stanton and Miller will meet regarding the RFPs and plans re: NYS DOS LTCRS Grants – with Middletown’s intent to do long range planning for affordable housing off the flood plain as well as mitigation projects re: available development for businesses as well. This meeting will be scheduled once Hurricane Sandy has been got through.

John Biruk and P Davis explained FEMAs 72 hour rule, which is being waived for possible effects of Sandy but which will apply to all future events as FEMA attempts to get it’s expenses under control. This rule allows for reimbursement for as many personnel as needed/available during a declared emergency for 72 working hours per person however those working hours are used/spread out/managed.

Middletown will hold a special meeting for flood prep including approval of a notice of bid on items identified by J Biruk as needed for flood clean-up – based on the county’s annual bids - to avoid paying higher prices during events as well as to have an idea of who and what is available locally. This info as well as the contract will be shared w the villages of Flmnns and Margaretville - and shared w the Towns of Hardenburgh and Halcott for informational purposes and, should they wish to pursue it, their independent use of the same process. These bids will be done annually.

Miller & Pascarella as well as Stanton & Kasasof & Ohsberg agreed to make those calls needed to confirm emergency prep for general municipal knowledge as well as posting on Middletown website and etc. by 4pm this Monday October 29th (i.e. shelters – where & for how long, a regular meeting at Town Hall each day post-disaster at 6pm w a call in as need to update communications team and do a press release) The emergency basic phone is ready to go and that number is 586-1115. This will be a voice recording w basic info for the public, regularly updated by a ‘to be appointed’ Middletown Public Info officer.

Miller asked for public comment and L Davis spoke to a need for releases for work to be done on private property. Nelt Delameter said work can/will be reimbursed as long as the work is tied to infrastructure protection and Davis spoke to the fact that having just gone thru this, we have those documents available and ready for use. Dutcher also spoke to having trained 160 SEMO workers in flood response so that they understand reimbursements better re: same.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40. The East Branch Flood Commission will next meet on **November 26, Monday, @10a.m.** at Town Hall. Innes Kasanof reminded the group that a SEMO person will be there to take us through some of their procedural and other steps for future reference.