

MINUTES
RARITAN & MILLSTONE RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MARCH 26, 2015

Chairman Jurewicz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Secretary McCarthy read the following Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Meeting of the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission was made by the posting on the bulletin boards in the participating municipalities and transmitted to the officially designated newspapers, a list of dates, annually, indicating that this Meeting would take place at the Raritan Borough Hall, Council Chambers, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 on Thursday, March 26, 2015. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk in the Township of Franklin.”

Municipalities Present: Franklin, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, Raritan, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County

Municipalities Absent: Bridgewater, Hillsborough and South Bound Brook

Everyone present participated in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence led by Chairman Jurewicz.

INTRODUCTION – OVERVIEW NOTES

Chairman Jurewicz reviewed the contact information for the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission. He announced the April meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2015 in Bridgewater.

PUBLIC PORTION – Agenda Items Only

A motion was made by Somerville, seconded by Franklin to open the public portion on agenda items only. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

At this time, there were no comments from the public.

A motion was made by Somerville, seconded by Franklin to close the public portion on agenda items only. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Somerville to approve the minutes of January 28, 2015 and February 25, 2015. The motion was seconded by Franklin and carried upon voice vote with abstentions from Rocky Hill and

Raritan on the January 28, 2015 minutes and abstentions by Millstone and Raritan on the February 25, 2015 minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sluka presented the following report:

1) Claims for Payment:

- a) Check #147 - Ann Marie McCarthy - \$600.00
- b) Check #148 - Davis Instrument - \$1,360.00 – Cancel Check #146 previously to Davis Instrument
- c) Check #149 – Vella, Singer & Martinez - \$100.00

2) Income:

- \$500.00 – Franklin Township
- \$500.00 – Raritan Borough

3) Budget Encumbrances: None

4) Donation of Gift to RMR FCC: None

The aforesaid Treasurer's Report was approved upon motion by Rocky Hill, seconded by Millstone and carried upon call of the roll.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer Sluka presented the following Finance Committee Report:

- The balance of the account as of approval of the above payments is \$11,245.06 as of March 26, 2015.
- Authorization of \$1,500.00 (maximum) to Suplee & Clooney for auditing services and to set up tax identification for Commission.
- Authorization of \$1,200.00 (maximum) for Courier News Display Ad for River Cleanup/OEM Event to publish two times prior to event.

A motion was made by Somerville to accept the aforesaid Finance Committee Report. Said motion was seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Chairman Jurewicz spoke on scheduling a meeting with Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman in the near future regarding the Army of Engineers Project Report and future funding. Chairman Jurewicz spoke on contacting State Legislators regarding the passing of legislation establishing a State Flood Commission. He proposed drafting a letter with assistance of Ms. Whitman and Ms. McCarthy to the State Assembly and the Governor. Chairman Jurewicz read the bill to the Commission.

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Andreassen spoke on smaller scale projects involving impervious cover reduction such as rain barrels and rain gardens. He addressed the issue of detention basins. He encourages the mapping of impervious coverage. Mr. Jurewicz spoke on obtaining an intern to collect and input this data so it can be reviewed. They spoke on the preliminary FEMA maps of the Millstone Rivers. It was discussed that FEMA/Somerset County Health/OEM/DEP may be a discussion/presentation for the October meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Jurewicz led the discussion on the River Cleanup/OEM Event that is scheduled for May 31st at Dukes Park. The raindate is June 6th. He stated that OEM equipment from Manville, Franklin and Hillsborough will be there. He stated that he has been inviting any group that deals with water including the County Health Department, FEMA, DEP and Army Corps of Engineers. Media coverage for the River Cleanup/OEM Event will be in the form of a flyer and two display ads in the Courier News, the website and Facebook.

Also discussed was a questionnaire that was drafted by Mr. DeRochi. A copy of distributed to the Commission. All was asked to review and send and comments, corrections or additions to Ms. McCarthy. A final copy of this questionnaire will be send to each Clerk/Administrator of each member municipality for their feedback.

PRESENTATION AND SPECIAL GUEST

Cindy Skaar, State Farm Representative, led a discussion with the Commission regarding flood insurance. She provided various documents from NFIP. Topics discussed included, but were not limited to: 30-day waiting period to get flood insurance; no coverage for loss of use/revenue; limited coverage on personal property; increasing flood rates; preferred rates; flood mapping issues and proactive measures.

OLD BUSINESS

A brief discussion ensued regarding detention basins – how they are tracked differs from municipality to municipality. Franklin Township's ordinance requiring permits was also discussed and it was suggested that it be recommended as a Best Practices and sent to the County.

Also discussed was the pending legislation regarding the establishment of the State Flood Commission. A copy is to be distributed to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission discussed ways to apply and obtain grants for the relocation or elevation of historical home out of a flood plain in Millstone. It was suggested to look into historical grants, state grants and grants from FEMA.

Also discussed were the remaining homes in Manville that need to be bought out or elevated. There are many procedures and questions regarding this process. It was suggested to put answers and procedures on the website.

Further discussion ensued regarding the Cleanup Day that will be on May 31 from 9 am to Noon. The discussion included, but was not limited to, registering for the cleanup prior to the event; the location of the proposed area to be cleaned; contacting the Somerset County Park Commission and receiving donations from Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowes.

PUBLIC PORTION – Any Matter of Concern

A motion was made to open the meeting to the public for any matter of concern by Somerville. Said motion was seconded by Franklin and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Somerville to close the meeting to the public on any matter of concern. Said motion was seconded by Franklin and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Joseph Lukac, Manville, stated he has a contact at Cablevision that may be used to put information on the local public station.

Chairman Jurewicz stated Green Brook may have some confusion regarding their tax status are a working with Somerset County auditor and will get back to the Commission with their results.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Franklin to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Said motion was seconded by Millstone and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy
Recording Secretary