

MINUTES
RARITAN & MILLSTONE RIVERS FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Vice Chairman DeRochi called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 Manville Borough Municipal Building, 325 North Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835 on September 27, 2017. 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, Hillsborough, Montgomery, Rocky Hill, Somerville, Somerset County

Municipalities Absent: Bridgewater, Manville, Millstone, Raritan and South Bound Brook

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

INTRODUCTION – OVERVIEW NOTES

Vice Chairman DeRochi reviewed the contact information for the Raritan and Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Somerville, seconded by Franklin to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting. Said motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

A motion was made by Hillsborough, seconded by Franklin to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2017 meeting. Said motion carried upon call of the roll with an abstention by Somerville.

No action was taken on the unofficial minutes of the May 15, 2017 and June 28, 2017 Work Sessions as there was not a quorum for either session.

Correspondence

Vice Chairman DeRochi reported on correspondence from Frank Jurewicz, resigning from the Commission effective July 1, 2017. He thanked Mr. Jurewicz for his support and work on the Commission. Treasurer Sluka stated he would draft a commendation letter to Mr. Jurewicz to be sign by the members of the Commission.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sluka presented the following report:

- 1) Claims for Payments:

#182	Ann Marie McCarthy	\$1,000.00 (2017-2)
#183	Earth Cam Inc.	\$5,000.00 (covers camera thru 12/18)
#184	Vella Singer & Associates	\$200.00
- 2) Income: (none)
- 3) Budget Encumbrances (none)
- 4) Donation of Gift to RMRFCC (none)

The aforesaid Treasurer's Report was moved by Somerville, seconded by Hillsborough and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Mr. Sluka reported the balance after bills are paid will be \$3,235.57. He stated the Commission needs to discuss its financial situation and future.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer Sluka presented the following Finance Committee Report reporting the balance prior to the payments is \$9,435.57. The balance of the account as of approval of the above payments is \$3,235.57 as of September 27, 2017. Treasurer Sluka led a discussion with members of the Commission that the Flood Commission should serve as an advocacy agency to assist agencies obtain funding or support legislation, i.e. Support letters, networking of information between municipalities, etc. He recommended the Flood Commission should be a volunteer appointment with no dues or fees assessed. He stated there is no need to have bi-monthly meetings, quarterly is fine provided that there is an agenda.

Said Finance Report was approved upon motion by Hillsborough, seconded by Rocky Hill and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The discussion regarding the financial situation and future of the Commission continued in regards to the future of the Commission, grants, projects and the financial situation of the Commission. The discussion turned to the Community Rating System for interested municipalities. Treasurer Sluka offered to draft a RFP for a consultant for services in connection with the Community Rating System. He stated he would initiate an email to send out to municipalities to see if there is interest. In regards to the meeting schedule, it was the consensus to keep it to the remaining 2017 meetings for now.

Vice Chairman DeRochi asked members to be ready to discuss the future of the Commission and what direction it should take in 2018. He stated he would prepare an invitational letter to the municipalities for the October 25th meeting. He agreed to pursue the Community Rating System project. He asked members to think of other projects the Commission can work on and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Richard Onderko, Manville, suggested the Commission work with other agencies, such as Rutgers, Sustainable Raritan, and the Watershed Authority. He stated flooding affects everyone and expressed his feeling there is no support from Somerset County. He stated the Commission should work on Stormwater issues and promote rain barrel and garden programs. He reported on a Flood Mitigation Planning Grant Manville received in the amount of \$33,000. He stated Somerset County is overdeveloped. He stated the Commission should not fold and needs to be better focused. He stated he wants to know what value is in the ACE Report. He suggested the Commission collect data as to what municipality has the most impervious surface and which has the most flood damage.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Treasurer Sluka spoke on local Somerville initiatives. He stated the ACE needs to attend meeting and report back to the Commission, residents and officials. He stated the ACR needs to give people an opportunity to debate report.

Mr. Belanger spoke to the issue of impervious surface and old buildings that need to be retrofitted. He stated the problem is not with new building that is subject to strict Stormwater regulations.

Vice Chairman DeRochi reiterated the Commission needs to find focus and they will have this discussion at the next meeting on October 25th in Franklin. He will draft the invitation to the members. He spoke of moving the Commission towards advocacy.

Trustee Thomas spoke on Franklin's regulations regarding 1000 feet of impervious surface in connection with rain barrels, rain gardens and dry wells. He stated it would be beneficial if these regulations were County wide.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Somerville to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Said motion was seconded by Hillsborough and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy
Recording Secretary