Borough of Lewisburg

Flood Impact Meeting and Tour

4/10/2015

Summary of Principal Points

Overview –

* Lewisburg River Town Profile Data Sheets: A historic river town knows floods and their consequences
* Key Topics:
  + Consequences for NFIP solvency, need more participation but so far we are seeing less;
  + Local tax base impacts, discussion of spot reassessment and future taxation levels
  + Emerging impacts on real estate sales and home ownership – pressure toward rentals (already at 60% of Borough), possible market for private loans
* Suggestions:
  + Mandatory coverage for all properties in floodplain (this would increase the number of policies in the municipality by a factor of 3 and the rates would not have to be so punitive) OR elimination of flood relief for uninsured properties in the event of a disaster (while this is theoretically a provision of BW12, it’s not clear that it is taken into account in the decisions people are making in response to the rate changes)
  + Severing of rushing versus rising waters beyond velocity zones or floodways; and recognition that the climate impacts are different between inland and coastal sites
  + Accommodation/recognition for historic structures (consider using the first floor as the index rather than the basement, with the understanding that utilities be elevated and no coverage provided for basements; recognize that while only 20% of properties in the floodplain may have been subsidized nationally, it is 35% of our municipality’s structures and 80% of our historic district);
  + Elimination of coverage cap for high value commercial (and possibly residential) properties and adjustment to ensure for only the amount of encumbrance to be covered for low value properties (unless mandatory for all properties regardless of debt level)

Tour –

* Walking Tour along Market, S Water and Front and St George
* Loop past Bucknell University and through Bull Run Neighborhood, weather permitting
* Driving Tour along N 5th, 3rd and 4th Streets, time permitting

Action Items –

* Facilitate meeting with FEMA
* Consider points for 2017 reauthorization of legislation