

From: [Roland Bartl](#)
To: [Planning Board](#)
Subject: FW: Recent media reports of FEMA "map delays"
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 2:11:05 PM
Importance: High

Kim:

please add this to the docushare file for the next Planning Board meeting / zoning public hearing on 2/18.

Thanks -

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From: Bailey, A.Colleen (DCR) [mailto:a.colleen.bailey@state.ma.us]
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 1:20 PM
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Subject: Recent media reports of FEMA "map delays"
Importance: High

Hi everyone-

I've received a number of e-mails and phone calls regarding "map delays" over the last couple of weeks, so I thought I would send out an e-mail to all of the communities receiving new effective FEMA flood maps this summer addressing this issue. Some of you have already seen most of this, but since the issue is significant, I thought I would reiterate the importance of staying on course and continuing the work you've been doing to adopt the maps at Town Meeting this spring or through the City Council/Board of Health (if applicable).

The delay you've been hearing about is likely one of three things. First, you have probably heard about delays in the Plymouth County maps. These delays are related to an appeal that a few of the towns sent to FEMA and are specific to Plymouth County, but more to the point, the appeal is related to the coastal engineering study that was done there. Coastal engineering is vastly different from riverine engineering/modeling (which is the type of analyses that is done in inland areas such as Middlesex and Worcester Counties). So this Plymouth County delay does not have any effect on

other counties getting new maps this summer—and your community still needs to adopt the maps at town meeting this spring!

Second, you might have heard talk about a delay by Congress in the implementation of the Biggert Waters Act. The Biggert Waters Act was originally passed by Congress in July of 2012 to make the National Flood Insurance Program more financially stable and ensure that flood insurance rates more accurately reflect the real risk of flooding. The Senate voted last week on a 4-year delay of implementation of the Biggert Waters Act. As of today, the House has not voted on anything, so currently there is NO delay. I think so many people confuse “delays in the increase of flood insurance” with “delays in the issuance of the maps.” They are two very separate things. We have been told by FEMA that the pending legislation would not affect the implementation of any ongoing map revision efforts.

In addition to the first and second points above, in the most recent passage of the federal budget, there was budget language on flood insurance that blocked FEMA from spending any money for the remainder of this fiscal year (through Sept. 30, 2014) to enforce higher premiums under Section 207 of Biggert-Waters. This section ends current “grandfathered” subsidized rates for existing policyholders who are now facing premium increases due to remapping. These properties were built in accordance with building codes at the time of construction but are now considered to be out of compliance due to new flood maps. The inability of FEMA to spend money on enforcement of this section of Biggert Waters means grandfathering is still in effect and will be until at least the end of September. Again, such delays would not affect the implementation of any ongoing map revision efforts.

In short, the delays you have been hearing about do not affect any of your communities. You should continue to work toward getting the new flood maps adopted at town meeting or through the City Council or Board of Health. Any community that fails to do so will be suspended by FEMA from the National Flood Insurance Program.

Please let me know if you have any questions! Thanks so much!

Colleen

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