

Mighty Londonderry
Community Resilience Organization
Minutes - May 2, 2017
DRAFT

Attendees: Bruce Frauman, Kevin Beattie, Dick Dale, Jennifer Probst, Jeff Duda

1. Meeting called to order by Bruce Frauman at 6:30 pm.
2. Minutes of meeting of April 4, 2017 were approved.
3. VT Alert. A letter “expressing our desire to be a submitting agency” from the Town of Castleton was distributed as an example. Bruce noted that it calls for a “Town Policy”. He asked Brett LaRose for more information, but has not received a reply yet. We will leave the policy in and wait for more information as to what it should contain. Bruce will find out who the letter should be sent to and will write a draft.

Submitters will be: 1. EMD, 2. a Select Board contact, 3. the town clerk, 4. South Londonderry Fire Chief, 5. Londonderry Fire Chief, 6. Road Foreman.

4. Table Top Exercise. Jeff Duda suggested a good scenario would be the October 1987 weather event with significant snowfall. There was widespread damage, food shortages, roads closed, power outages, and tourists were in the area. Since most people did not have snow tires on, there were also many accidents. Kevin agreed with this scenario.

Jennifer asked Rich Cogliano’s question of what do we want to test? She suggested setting of notification of VT Alert and the roles of the people in the room (drawn from our Jan. 25 meeting). Kevin added standing up the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and giving briefings to the emergency responders. Jeff added chain of command and change of command, especially for a multi-day time frame. Kevin wants to test the structure and chain of command of the local EOC.

Bruce asked about a shelter situation. Kevin said everything depends on the power company. We need to know who to call for information.

We chose to set a date of Saturday, September 23 from 8 am to 1 pm. An alternate date would be mid-October. Jennifer will ask Rich Cogliajno if this date works for him.

5. Flood Brook Shelter/Generator. Dick said the generator will be installed after school is out this summer. Kevin said we are still waiting for the town office generator. Bruce said the discovery of wetlands has delayed the placement decision. Kevin said it will be part of the next phase of the town office planning project. Jennifer said 25 cots and 50 blankets are ready for Flood Brook. They are being stored in a Red Cross facility in Rutland. Jennifer will ask Neal if he is ready for delivery. Dick said each school in the new Taconic and Green School District will be designated a shelter. They will copy Flood Brook's evacuation and other plans.

We will encourage local people to attend a Red Cross course in sheltering to be held July 16 in Wilmington. It is a full course: 9-12 for shelter fundamentals and 1-3 a shelter simulation will be set up. Dick asked that this training be opened up to members of the Baptist Church, the Congregational Church, and Neighborhood Connections. Jennifer will write a letter of explanation about this training opportunity. It will be distributed through the Londonderry Monthly, Londonderry Forum on Facebook, the town email list and other forms of outreach.

6. CRO/ARC conference. Bruce said there were talks about the Academic Resilience Collaborative, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and the CRO in Hartford. He chose to spend time with Ben Rose of the DEMHS during a Resource Jam. Ben felt that the state's relationship with FEMA would be better in future disasters than happened after Tropical Storm Irene.

Jennifer said there are four functional CROs. One take away is to keep it fun. Money is available for these CROs for celebrations or workshops. Dick suggested we have a presence when the town celebrates after the Outlet Barn is torn down during one of two town potluck gatherings the Parks Board is planning. Jennifer said Hartford said the river table was popular at its events. We will try to obtain it for our celebration. Hartford also copied Bethel University and held a resilience week last year, which it will repeat this year. This included teaching of resilience skills. Mindy Blank is the new Executive Director of Community

Resilience Organizations.

7. Kevin would like to see more people involved. The CRO has been a tremendous boost for him as the EMD. Still, more could be involved. Jennifer said she would like the Board to appoint more people and/ or have everyone bring someone else to the next meeting. Jeff said that when he knows someone interested in joining the fire department, he goes after them. Dick suggested we get involved with Green Up Day.

Jennifer said she learned at the conference about mental health vulnerability of people who have survived disasters. We need to do more research.

Bruce noted that there is no history of Irene in Londonderry. Jennifer said we could designate someone to ask people for their stories at a celebration.

8. The next meeting is set for June 6, 2107 at 6:30 pm.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.