
LEPC 6
Minutes
November 18, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 17:25.
2. Introductions. Lisa Hecht, Tom Goddard, Donald Capponcelli, Pamela Corbett, Corwin Elwell, Richard Cooke, Barb Williams, David Moore, Lissa Stark, Dianne Champion, Jon Power, Melinda Bussino, Timothy Bell, Andrea Hatch, Jim Tonkovich, Bruce Pollock, Josh O'Neill
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
MOVED and seconded to approve the October 21 minutes as written. VOTE: approved.
4. Winter Warming Shelters and Shelter Needs
 - a. Lissa Stark, Emergency Planner for Bennington Regional Planning Commission and staff person for LEPC 7 as well as Bruce Pollock of Green Mountain Chapter of the American Red Cross discussed the workshop they had put on in Bennington County in October and some of the issues that were brought up concerning Towns setting up warming shelters.
 - b. The Effort was led by the Agency of Human Services. In Bennington County a Sub-Committee was formed for this effort including representatives from LEPC 7, Town Officials, American Red Cross, Council on Aging, United Way, Schools Supervisory Unions, and Communities of faith
 - c. Warming Shelters should be separate from Red Cross Shelters; Red Cross Shelters are only opened during a declared emergency
 - d. In Bennington County some of the Towns have designated Warming Shelters. Towns EMD's are working on setting up shelters
 - e. There was mention of possible zoning issues depending on the number of people that would occupy a given site. Mention that Warming Shelters are only supposed to be temporary shelters, so zoning issues should not occur
 - f. It was mentioned that churches do the best that they can but that many church facilities are having real issues with being able to afford fuel for heating facilities throughout the winter
 - g. Bruce Pollock gave a short Powerpoint Presentation
5. Representatives from Brattleboro Area Drop In Center and Morningside Shelter
 - a. Melinda Bussino from Brattleboro Drop in Center said that she needs volunteers so that they can open shelters starting next week.
 - b. She stated that there are three times as many homeless this year compared to last year. This is the first year that the Drop in center will be serving whole families
 - c. Jon Power from Morningside Shelter stated that they are witnessing the same trend at their facility, noting that the need is much greater this year than it has been in the past due to factors such as the high cost of heating fuel and the sharp downturn in the economy that has caused more people to be unemployed or underemployed
 - d. Melinda mentioned that there will be training conducted for those wanting to volunteer to staff shifts at shelter facilities. The trainings will occur on Sunday November 30th and Sunday December 7th in Brattleboro

- e. Josh O'Neill brought up the idea of drafting a letter from the LEPC that could be sent to Town Officials and Local Media Outlets to reiterate the dire circumstances and great need for volunteers and donations to help the Shelters in Brattleboro meet the demand that is expected throughout this long winter. Membership liked the idea and Josh will begin drafting a letter and email a copy to the LEPC membership list for review and comments in the next couple of weeks.
6. HSU:
 - a. Andrea is working on the Vermont Preparedness Report
 - b. Grant Applications are due in March
 - c. Citizen Corp Working Group is being formed and becoming active.
 7. VEM:
 - a. C-POD Final Planning Conference to be held Wednesday December 17, 10 a.m. at the Royalton Barracks
 - b. C-POD TTX January 24th in Rutland
 - c. Andrea gave the VEM update in lieu of Peter Coffey
 8. CERT:
 - a. Tim Bell gave us the CERT update
 - b. He stated that there is a need for some younger participants to join CERT for functions that may be labor intensive
 - c. They are currently outfitting the CERT trailer
 - d. VEM will be holding a CERT Conference on December 13 in Randolph from 9am to 4pm
 9. VSP: No Update
 10. VDH:
 - a. Pam mentioned the need for someone to take initiative on DART efforts in our region.
 - b. She thought that CERT could be a big help to a Windham County DART team.
 11. Training Committee:
 - a. The next meeting of the Training Sub-Committee will be at the Brattleboro Fire Department on December 16 at 2pm
 - b. The Training Committee has a new member. Michelle Willey has joined the Committee representing Windham County Firefighters Association.
 - c. Training Survey results were collected from Dummerston, Vernon, Brattleboro, and Wardsboro Fire Departments. More are on the way from Vermont State Police, Grafton, Putney, and Jamaica Fire Departments as well as EMS.
 - d. Josh handed out a flyer reminding everyone that the Multi-Year Training & Exercise Plan Workshop (TEPW) will be taking place on January 29th 2009 at the Brattleboro Fire Department from 5:30 -9pm. Dinner will be provided for this event!!!
 12. Old Business:
 - a. Nothing reported
 13. New Business:
 - a. Goals for 2009 to be discussed at December meeting

- b. Lisa Hecht would like to take some time to do a presentation on School Crisis Planning
 - c. Kevin Anderson will be at the December meeting to sign people up for the ATIX online information sharing system
 - d. Bruce Pollock from Green Mountain Chapter of the American Red Cross mentioned that the Red Cross was doing an "Adopt a Day" Fundraising effort. Adopting a day would be a donation of about 250 dollars.
14. Next Meeting:
- i. December 16, 5pm (Location TBA)
 - ii. Presentation from Lisa Hecht on School Crisis Planning
 - iii. Discussion on LEPC Goals for 2009!!!
15. Meeting Adjourned at 19:01.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Josh O'Neill
Assistant Planner
Windham Regional Commission