

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEETING

MINUTES - MARCH 19, 2024

Present: Lydia Faesy, Rachael Grossman, Renee Kievit Kylar, Jennifer Zollner

Absent: Patty Giavara

Guest: Kevin Nadzam

1. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.
2. Renee added two items to the agenda - the website and GIS.
3. Renee and Rachael filled Kevin in on the committee's history and our goals.
4. There was a good discussion about how to use software to keep people apprised of road conditions. Kevin suggested that the road crew could use a simple app on their phone to update town residents.
5. Renee talked about the website. We would like the website to be more user-friendly so that when people go to the town's website, the emergency information link is easy to find. Renee had been planning to work on that with Gina but it will have to wait until Gina's replacement is hired or someone else in the town is designated a web master.
6. Renee also told us about her conversation with Sarah Black, the person in Calais who manages the road information for the town. **ACTION: We will invite Sarah to come to our next mtg for further explanation and clarification of her role.** (Renee will ask her?)
7. In talking about the various ways to keep residents informed during power outages and other emergencies, Kevin had a great suggestion. He told us that the school use a platform that allows them to send text to families and kids to let them know that school is cancelled. This platform allows sub platforms as well. **ACTION: Lydia will find out what platform is used and if we can become part of it.**
8. Kevin also suggested that there are also platforms we can use for collecting data on what resources and needs people have.
9. We identified many outlets for keeping residents informed:
 - Slack or some other platform to keep people informed in real time
 - Front Porch Forum
 - Facebook
 - Town Website
10. We made a list of questions for the Selectboard:
 - We need to make the Incident Chart a real document.
 - In an emergency, can we ensure that the outgoing message on the town office phone has relevant and helpful information? Who would be responsible for that?
 - Can we put in place a system for the road crew to note road condition updates on their phones per Kevin's suggestion?
 - The elementary school is listed in the LEMP as a designated shelter. Have we, as as town, decided that we are not using it as a shelter and will be sending residents to the regional shelter at the BOR? Would the BOR open its shelter if it was an East Montpelier-specific emergency?

Next Meeting: May 21, 2024 4:30-6:00.