LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Weymouth Police Station – Training Room

140 Winter Street

Weymouth, MA 02188

April 4, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Minutes

**PRESENT:**  John Mulveyhill, Chairman

Daniel McCormack, Health Department

Charlotte Jenkins, Emergency Management

Joan Cooper-Zack, SSHS

Chris Carey, Police Department

John Barker, School Department

Jonathan Tose, Citizen Representative

John Higgins, Fire Department

Matthew Brennan, Health Department

Brian Mingolelli, Mass Maritime

John Marsinelli, Mass Maritime

**NOT PRESENT:** James Mannion, MEMA

Mary Heinrichs, WETC

**ALSO PRESENT:** Patricia McDonnell, Recording Secretary

Chairman Mulveyhill called the meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee to order at 9:03 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chairman Mulveyhill introduced Patricia McDonnell as the committee’s new recording secretary. Attendees introduced themselves and their role with the committee.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Mulveyhill provided an update on the hazmat tabletop exercise being held on April 24 at 9:00 a.m. He stated the subcommittee will be meeting immediately following this meeting and will discuss the exercise in more detail. He stated all subcommittee members should have received a packet, which will be updated after today’s meeting and emailed to all the members.

He stated the scenario will involve a collision between a truck and a fully loaded school bus coming from the Nash School, at the intersection of Main Street and Charmada Road, and it will be a hazmat situation. The exercise will take them through rush hour and into dark with traffic diversion. There will be an influx at the hospital, and other town departments will be needed.

Cadet Mingolelli stated they have finished the main work. Most of the information has to remain secret, but they will try to answer any questions. He stated department heads should decide who the players will be from their departments. Joan Cooper-Zack asked how many people should be invited. Cadet Mingolelli stated they will go over this information at the subcommittee meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Mulveyhill stated James Mannion from MEMA could not be present as they are conducting a full scale exercise today. He wanted to let everyone know that for the March 2nd through 5th blizzard they have numbers for Norfolk county and expect a presidential declaration. They are conducting initial damage assessments and preliminary damage assessments. He took people from FEMA around the waterfront and they are looking for an individual assessment declaration for March 2nd through 5th. They are starting to do initial damage assessment for the March 7th and 8th storm.

Chairman Mulveyhill stated in the past if the fire department had an extra crew come in during a storm they could only put in for the time spent on runs, but now they can put in for the entire shift and vehicle use by the hour. He stated hopefully they are done with winter storms and can move onto spring.

Chairman Mulveyhill thanked everyone for their hard work and cooperation during the storms. They had assistance from the National Guard, Red Cross, fire department, police department, and South Shore Hospital. Charlotte Jenkins gave kudos to the Red Cross. She stated three people from Maine and three from New York drove to all the way to Weymouth to provide assistance. Chairman Mulveyhill agreed that the Red Cross came through in a big way and worked 12 hour shift rotations. The Salvation Army did mass feeding and brought in mass feeding trucks with chefs who made phenomenal dinners. 92 people from 12 towns went through the shelter, not many were from Weymouth. The maximum amount of people at one time was 58 at the height of the storm and the system worked.

Chairman Mulveyhill stated they setup the shelter at McCullough originally and at 3:00 p.m. moved to the high school for the weekend. On Monday they moved back to McCullough so school could begin on Tuesday. Park and Recreation moved trailers and Elder Services provided a van. Red cross nurses were able to handle things and MRC provided a doctor for the night shift. There was also one service animal. Charlotte Jenkins stated there were two profoundly deaf people at the shelter.

Joan Cooper-Zack asked if there will be a town review of the storm response. Chairman Mulveyhill stated he is speaking to the mayor’s office about a town overview meeting. He stated the fire chief handled all National Grid coordination. Information was posted on Facebook and the town website and there were no roadblocks or dead ends and everything went much better than it should have. Joan Cooper-Zack stated the multiple town collaboration was wonderful. She stated the hospital did become a shelter for multiple patients but feels this will get better with collaboration.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS:**

Matt Brennan stated it has been quiet for hazardous material responses. John Higgins stated the fire department is not aware of any either.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Joan Cooper-Zack stated they are doing a yearly hazard vulnerability assessment and she is looking for input from the town on vulnerabilities. She stated from the four perspectives of human, technology, hazardous material, and infrastructure, they find vulnerabilities are weather, infectious disease, workplace violence, opioids, cybersecurity, technology, mass casualties and sheltering. She stated hazardous material events, small scale and medium scale, have reinforced the need to continue to practice and prepare. Chairman Mulveyhill stated regional sheltering has improved immensely compared with previous events.

John Barker asked about the status of the meter that was purchased. Chairman Mulveyhill stated they are trying to organize training. John Higgins stated they have had some training and have used it but are trying to contact a regional dealer to get further training from the manufacturer. Chairman Mulveyhill stated he spoke to a technical expert from the Mass Fire Academy and he seemed to think that he might be able to help to some degree. John Higgins stated the meter is automatically set up for immediate detection but there are a lot of settings and it gets complicated and if the hazard is something out of the ordinary it will not be set for that. He stated they need technical advice but the meter can be used in an emergency situation. John Barker stated in the past with the regular meters some chemicals have not been detected. Matt Brennan stated most events are oil based so if they set the meter to hydrocarbons that would be a good standard in the field. The setting can be changed but it will give better numbers. He stated he chose the meter and will try to assist in getting training.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Chairman Mulveyhill stated the committee will meet again in May or June to go over the drill and have an after action as a committee as a whole.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Joan Cooper-Zack to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. Motion second by Charlotte Jenkins and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Patricia McDonnell

Recording Secretary

Approved by:

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John Mulveyhill, Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_