

Boxborough Emergency Reserve Corps (BERC)

Minutes

March 26, 2013

Boxborough Town Hall

Sign In/In Attendance: Loretta Crowley    Maureen Masciola    Johan Sorvari    Swan Anderson  
Brad Hardie    Diane Ford    Laura Russell    Kathleen McLendon

Started: 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of 2/12/2013 accepted upon omission of hyphen and deciding to leave the "Adjourned" as is.

While reviewing past minutes, Johan mentioned, that mint oil can be purchased at a hardware store for about \$30. per quart.

Sadly, the Boxborough Fire Department will not be offering CPR/First Aid since the trends are for folks to do these on-line. Laura's Church will be offering both CPR & First Aid on May 4, 2013 for \$45. per person, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Sudbury MRC is offering these classes, in the near future.

Brad reported, that he and the Nashoba Agent in charge of the Grant funds, discovered that our First Responders may need to use funds for Communication purposes. The ERC may get some items, such as, the clip-boards via. another venue. Loretta offered to share the \$50. Gift Certificate, since it hasn't been used, yet. Diane mentioned, Label Makers are on sale at B. J. 's. Swan wondered if we could buy Letters for Sign Boards.

Diane attended a Pet Preparedness course given by the Chelmsford MRC. She shared statistical facts that about 60% of homes have pets. During Hurricane Katrina, 30% resisted Evacuation, to be with their pets. Of those pet owners that did leave, 80% of them, returned to rescue pets. Another statistic suggests, for every 100 people arriving in a Shelter, there will be 40 pets.

We are looking into The Pets Act, in order to see if this is a Law in Massachusetts or a Mandate. Diane, stated, the speaker did say, it is a Law; making it a must for pet owners to bring animals in the case of Evacuation. Suggestions for Pet Sheltering and Kits were included in the course. A brochure was handed out with many links for Pet Preparedness. An Equipment List Grant for Pet Shelters was handed out.

In less than 2 weeks our ERC Open House will occur. Loretta assured the group that the Ad has been running for three weeks in the Action Unlimited; however, this past week's deadline was missed. An attempt to get the Ad in the Beacon and the Boston Globe was made, also. Brad made sure the time for the function says 9:30 a. m., allowing time for setting up. Time was changed, when e-mail was received, but the Ad had been sent to the paper, prior to receipt. A flyer has been given to the Library for posting. Suggestion of posting flyers around town was made. Both Swan and Laura will be printing out the flyer for posting.

Laura passed around a food sign-up list.

Both the Fire and Police Chiefs will be attending the Open House. They will speak before Liisa Jackson.

Diane suggested a slide show of Pet Preparedness to loop and thought it would be good to talk about, as well. She may look into getting copies of the presentation from the speaker from the Pet Preparedness course. Brad said we could plan, in the future, for another educational event with this as a focus.

Swan brainstormed ideas for the table presentations and brought a poster board with pictures. Other details were considered, such as how many tables we need and layouts were reviewed. Discussion of what to say on the street signs and where to put them around town was finalized, Swan will manage these responsibilities and see that one sign is at Liberty Sq. Rd., on the Church and Middle Rd. corner, and one around Rt. 495.

Diane will be calling and inviting folks who may be potentially interested in the ERC, from contacts made at events we participated in around town, such as Fifer's Day.

Upcoming Trainings: Training included on the MRC Website are a Field Triage hosted by Maynard and an EDS Site Drill in Littleton on Saturday May 11, 2013. It will be held at the High School and should be wrapped-up by noon.

Johan brought up a possibility of General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) or Family (GFRS) Licensing for someone in Boxborough, most likely a First Responder or himself, since he has HAM Radio experience. The cost is only \$85. for the License. The FCC limit's the Family branch to 7 channels and allows for 5 watts, currently, what the ERC uses with our two-way Radios.

Executive Committee Members: Tabled

Swan reminded all to wear the MRC/ERC shirts to the Open House and inquired about Badges. Laura and Brad talked on this point briefly. This will be something to consider, soon, as all Badges have expired.

Other New Business: Brenda Lyons left the group, due to other commitments; the Phone Tree was adjusted.

The Red Cross had toured the School, a couple of years ago, for shelter analysis. Not much feedback was given.

The School Safety Symposium was attended by Laura Russell, in Harvard, MA. It covered older shootings around the country in Colorado and Ohio, and most recently in Connecticut. Analysis of how a community is affected, psychologically, was a focus. The fact that Drills for Preparedness, in this area, eerily coincides with the actual Real-Time Event, occurring, is disturbing.

Laura explained how a group like the ERC may be used for a Man Made Disaster. She, also, mentioned how Boxborough has had Evacuation Drills, Lock Downs, and Fire Drills at the school and Police have participated in a Shooting Drill, there, without the children present.

Safety measures learned from these tragedies have been and are planned to be implemented at the school in Boxborough.

Last Minute Side Notes: Diane thought we could invite the Animal Control Officer to the Open House. Swan mentioned the importance of formalizing a Plan for inclusion of Animals in Shelter situations. One aspect would be to draft and issue a Form Letter.

Littleton 's MRC, who we have joined during their Pet Preparedness Events, offering our famous Pet Pics, should be a steady "partner," since we may be a Dispatch partner with them, in the future; some thought. Having Animal Info Sessions as a separate presentation topic, was something Swan thought we should seriously consider doing.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2013 in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:47 p.m.