

Boxborough Emergency Reserve Corps (BERC)

Minutes

June 11, 2013

Boxborough Town Hall

Sing In/Attendance: Brad Hardie Kathleen McLendon Loretta Crowley Barbara Kemp  
Margaret Delano Elizabeth K. Reid Laura Russell Maureen Masciola Diane Ford  
Ginny Haskins

Started: 7:10 p. m.

Minutes of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were accepted upon a couple of word changes.

No Grant money is available for the extension cords we planned to purchase; however, everything else on our list has been purchased. Also, there was not enough to cover the Trainings (ICS 100 & NIMS 700) Diane offered to share a cord for upcoming event(s).

Fifer's Day planning is set for June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The set-up crew was determined and other logistics for the day's event were arranged. Members meet at 8:30 a. m. at Flerra Field, then later at the School, for those participating in the Parade, after the Road Race. Brad will bring the two-way radios.

The Emergency Dispensing Site Drill with Littleton's Volunteer Corps on 5/11/13 was a success. 150 people were registered, vaccinated, and discharged in one and a half hour time period. The group was glad to have Boxborough Volunteers participation.

Diane passed out Animal Shelter related hand-outs from Westford and shared information about a Pet Shelter Drill, she participated in, as an observer, on 5/29/13. A colored Band System was suggested to identify pet owners with their pets. This Shelter Drill, made pet owners responsible for care of their own pets and stated the area where pets were kept was closed at a certain time and guarded, as well. This concerned her, as we all know pets need attending to overnight, sometimes. She was unable to attend the recap portion of the Drill, once it was over. Some participants included the SMART people from the Andover area and surrounding towns.

This led to a discussion about Boxborough and our relationship with surrounding towns and the need to secure Memorandums Of Understandings (MOU) for needed resources and items in the time of need. Loretta mentioned that the Emergency Planning Committee has reviewed this topic, in the past, and are aware of these very issues, we would face. She mentioned that the Town has plans for this in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning (CEMP) book.

Laura added more about her past experience as an Emergency Shelter worker.

Beth, recently, participated in a presentation from the United Way, which would take-over most large-scale crisis situations. They convinced her that most people would be overwhelmed, very quickly. They pointed out how phone-lines jam, quickly, as support calls go out. Laura added, that, if they were to take local control, we would be facing a Military type operation and have a major loss of control.

Beth emphasized the need to compile emergency numbers for resource contacts, such as pharmacy and food sources. Diane showed concern; and Brad stated, this type of preparation is the First Responder's jurisdiction. Loretta added that the CEMP book has a Confidential section called the Resource Manual with these very numbers that would be used during a crisis.

Later, it was decided to include the First Responders with our monthly Minutes, starting in the Fall. Also, Loretta will bring the outdated copy of BERC's CEMP book, for review, in order for members to become

familiar with it, to the September BERC meeting.

Laura stressed the need to network with others, now, before an actual crisis.

This led to a rally for the need to stock the local Food Pantry in town. Ginny asked for everyone to fill a bag with groceries and bring it on Fifer's Day, in order for her to get it to the church on Sunday. Beth thought it would be good to incorporate doing Food Drive's into our role in the community, in the future.

Trainings, in Boxborough, planned for fall, are in limbo; as the Region 4A Coordinator may be stepping down. Things are unclear.

Brad mentioned, we will be looking for new Executive Committee members, as Laura is stepping down. Diane and Kathleen said they would sit on the Board. Loretta, then, nominated Diane and Kathleen to sit on the Board of the BERC, Brad Seconded and it was a unanimous agreement for them to take place of Laura. Laura will still participate in the group.

New Business: Grange Fair participation is planned for Saturday, September 7, 2013. 10:00 a.m. will be our planned meeting time, to set the tent up and arrange the usual display items. The Fair is from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p. m.

Quick questions regarding the status of generator and Regionalization of the School, in-the-works, came up. Brad said, the Region would get the school and use of the school, would not be allowed unless it was for Municipal purposes, such as the Town Meeting and Sheltering.

Beth shared sad information about a prior member, Melissa Northrup, who just lost her husband after a recent move. It was thoughtful that she took the initiative to consider circulating a card for her.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2013 is the next tentative meeting planned. Meetings start at 7:00 p. m. and are usually held in the Boxborough Town Hall.

Adjourned: After 8:15 p. m.

ljc