

November 23rd 2015 Regional MRC Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Patricia Murray-Acton MRC, Susan Rask-Concord MRC, Rebecca Stadolnik-Stow MRC, Cathy Corkery-Region 4A MRC coordinator;
Boxborough BERC: Kathleen McLendon, Ron Sisco, John Sorvari, Margaret Delano

Meeting with neighboring towns and Cathy Corkery, Region 4A MRC coordinator, to have a discussion and ideas on creating a “multi-community sub-regional MRC” and to brainstorm on the following:

- Formation
- Training
- Recruiting
- MA Responds
- Local activities
- Mutual aid

Cathy Corkery talked about the region, activities, and MRC direction. Some other MRC regions have sub-regions, however, Metro Boston is the only 4a region that has sub-regions. We discussed each town MRC organizations, activities, and issues. Many expressed recruiting difficulties and training/drills in their towns. Acton and Concord are very similar to Boxborough in terms of # of volunteers; Stow's organization seems especially strong with 40-50 members. Acton has approximately 25 members, with 7-11 active.

There seemed to be interest from all towns present in working together in some fashion such as training, drills, and mutual aid in the event of an event. No formal agreements were discussed in this preliminary meeting.

Additional items discussed:

- Some organizations have formal human and pet shelter plans
- Some towns have MOU agreements with local food stores and restaurants to provide food in the event of a sheltering event which are incorporated into shelter plan.
- Most of the towns have 2-3 events a year where volunteers participate such as flu clinics, CPR/1st aid training, town events, or drills
- Recruiting seems to be a common issue
- Drills required prior to year-end for BOH/MRC funding
- DART, or Disaster Animal Response Team, was discussed and a topic for future training
- Potential topics for multi-town training:
 - Pet Shelter training with David Schwartz – Animal Rescue Team. Emergency preparedness for pets
 - Human and pet shelter training
 - Emergency preparedness

Next meeting: January 13th, 6:30-8:00pm Boxborough Town Hall