



Boxborough Emergency Reserve Corps (BERC)
BERC Meeting Minutes
Boxborough Town Hall
Thursday May 9th, 2024
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Attendees

Margaret Delano, Cindy Dorsey, Diane Ford, Ginny Haskins, Scott Konkle, Laura Russell, Cathy Sisco, Ron Sisco, John Sonner, Scott Spalding, Bob Stemple, Mary Sullivan, Janyce Vicik, Andrew Weiner

Summary

Volunteers that needed CPR certification practical attended the meeting early at 6:30pm for a CPR practical exam with Captain Malinowski, Boxborough Fire Department. New volunteers were recognized, recent grant awards and new grants were discussed, recent and upcoming events and trainings were reviewed, as well as planning for upcoming events including Fifer's Day.

Organization updates

- New members were introduced:
 - Cindy Dorsey
 - Bob Stemple
 - Mary Sullivan

Updates - general

- Grants awarded - HSGP CCP CERT (shipping storage container) has been delivered and is currently being outfitted with shelving units. Will review what needs to go in the trailer vs in the storage container. May plan a date to move equipment and inventory items
- Grants to submit – HSGP CCP CERT 2024 due May 17th Replacement and upgrade of BERC radios to be requested
- Central Middlesex MRC update – First Aid training class to be held May 28th in Winchester. A new Regional Coordinator has been hired and they are interviewing candidates currently for a Local Coordinator

Event reports were summarized

- FCAM Feb 27th & 28th – Regional CERT booth at Fire Chiefs conference Worcester. Cathy Sisco provided an update
- Narcan training Feb 28th – hosted by Littleton Volunteer Corps (LVC). Cindy Dorsey provided an update
- Crowd control/traffic March 13th – by Littleton Police Dept (LPD) hosted by LVC
- LVC open house & recruiting event March 27th. Cathy Sisco provided an overview of this successful recruiting event
- Run BXB 5k road race & Springfest April 7nd. BERC volunteers who assisted provided their feedback. BERC is willing to help out at the Fifer's Day road race in June if needed
- Light Search & Rescue April 10th – Anatomy of a Search by LPD hosted by LVC
- Regional CERT leadership meetings – MEMA bunker, Grants, etc. Summary of recent meetings provided by Ron Sisco



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Upcoming events

- Conex container – delivered, in process of setting up shelving and will need to move supplies, inventory, and organize
- BERC shelter trailer – will need to reconfigure for quick deployment, emptying many items into the Conex container
- Fifer's Day June 15, Flerra Field – booth and road race, parade. Planning and ideas discussed for the booth and materials to hand out. Unknown yet whether we will participate in the road race. Need to talk with PD and the Minutemen. The following suggestions were mentioned:
 - Promote emergency preparedness, family & pets
 - Summer weather emergencies
 - Avian flu, tick awareness
 - New CERT brochure handouts, 988 awareness
- FreeBee town fair – BERC booth target September
 - September is Emergency preparedness month
- CERT conference to be held in September hosted by MEMA, date and location TBD
- Back-to-School night – have informational table was suggested, October? Date?

Training

- I AM Responding (IAR) – how to use and respond to events was covered and new volunteers are getting set up on the system
- Volunteers requested additional training with our radios, produce a card with instructions
- Fire extinguisher training to be planned
- CERT classes available online and self-paced
- Cooling/Warming center operations were discussed and procedures for opening. Training materials available on how to run these type of shelters

Long-term planning (goals, events, training, etc.)

- Search and Rescue drill – local/multi-town Littleton, Harvard, etc. TBD
- Shelter drill – Blanchard, TBD. This will make sense after the trailer and Conex container are set up
- Membership recruiting planning/ideas
- BERC web site update/social media – looking for assistance

Other business

- Annual Town Meeting May 13th