

Calais Emergency Management Team / CEM
Meeting minutes February 8, 2023
Location: Calais Town Hall

Present: Denise Wheeler, Betty Copeland, Rick Kehne, Nick Emlen

Agenda:

- Review/approve January minutes; action items follow up
- CEM agenda items for 2/13 select board meeting
 - Sign facility Use Agreement with Red Cross
 - Amendment to EMPG grant for town hall generator
- EMPG grant Environmental & Historic Preservation Screening form
- March 18 Red Cross training on shelter management – draft information flier - Betty
- Review town meeting information flier - draft from Denise
- Schedule with town garage for 2-week trial of digital radio repeater service
- CEM files at town hall
- Schedule meeting with Harry Schoppmann, VEM Regional Coordinator
- Local Emergency Operations Plan for 2023
- 3/7 town meeting topics

Meeting convened at 7:05.

Motion to approve January minutes – approved – Denise/Betty

Discussed process for developing the emergency management section of the town website, as noted in the 2021 Calais Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Add to the March meeting agenda.

Logistics for ARC training on shelter management. Betty is taking the lead on communication, registration and flier. Send information to Carl Etnier at WGDR radio for broadcast. All of us will bring food/beverage to the event. Reserve town hall for 3/18.

Automatic notification system as used by WCUSD - sends phone call, email text – possible application for emergency notifications? Contact Cat Fair at CES and Michelle Ksepka at WCUSD.

Each of us will review the information flier that Denise drafted for town meeting and send her any edit suggestions.

Nick will confirm status of smoke and CO detectors at town hall and MCCC, and ask fire marshal to make sites visits to assess the use of those locations for overnight shelters.

Rick will take the lead on specifying a CEM emergency kit for use at the local emergency operations center and shelter sites.

Betty reported on the February meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee / REMC

Discussed the proposed digital radio communication system in comparison to the town's current simplex transmission system (no repeater). The road crew often has difficulty communicating from the trucks due to weak signal. Any upgraded system should be compatible with the fire departments and ideally with adjacent towns. Rick will look into what system the school busses use. The cost of the digital system is \$29/month per radio – about \$300/month for 10 radios plus one-time installation fee of \$100/radio. This may be cost prohibitive.

VEM Regional Coordinator Harry Schoppmann is available to meet with the incoming Selectboard and CEM for a 90-minute presentation and discussion on emergency management at the state and local level. Invite Calais road crew to attend. Schedule this as part of the regular CEM meeting on May 10.

Next meeting Wednesday March 8 at 7pm

Meeting adjourned 8:40

Minutes submitted by Nick