

Calais Emergency Management
Meeting minutes April 12, 2023
Location: Calais Town Hall

Present: Denise Wheeler, Betty Copeland, Jake Aho, Nick Emlen,
Jane English, Cathy James, Cornelia Carey

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Review of March minutes – postponed to May

Cathy James and Jane English gave an overview of the [RACES](#) program operating with Vermont Emergency Management and FEMA protocols to provide emergency communications during disasters, long term power outage/LTPO or major failures of telecommunication systems. There are currently eight FCC-licensed ham radio operators in Calais. Vermont has 40 fixed RACES stations in 16 hospitals, National Guard Joint Operations Center and various state offices. Discussed different capabilities of digital manual radio/DRM, VHF, UHF etc. Discussed steps for including local radio operators in Calais emergency response planning. Calais EOC needs staff who are licensed to operate ham and other systems to serve as dispatcher. Cathy and Jane are proctors for the amateur radio operators Technician exam. They offered to provide our team with radio protocol training. Capitol West, EMFD, Red Cross, VEM and others are currently working on upgrading their radio communication systems - ask them what frequencies and mode they use. Calais has \$3,200 in grant funding available to upgrade. Cathy advised working with VEM to develop a plan for Calais upgrade. She will send us information on the cost of an amateur-band RACES station and recommended equipment.

ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Services (non-profit)

ARRL - American Radio Relay League <http://arrl.org/>

Jake will create a Google drive folder for CEM documents

Reviewed draft Local Emergency Management Plan for final edits and additions. Nick will send the document to the Selectboard in advance of their April 24 meeting.

Jake welcomed as new member of the CEM team. He brings his training in electrical and mechanical engineering and experience with emergency preparedness to the mix.

Meeting adjourned 9:20pm.

Minutes submitted by Nick