

**Walpole Local Emergency Planning Committee**  
**Minutes for November 19, 2008**  
**Town Hall, Room 112**  
**10:00 a.m.**

In attendance: Robin Chapell, Rebecca Foley, Kathy Girvan, Florence Sundquist, Roger Turner, Jim Moses, Louis Harris, Jim Johnson, Jim Kearns, Margaret Walker, Gail Nixon, Dr. Joseph Dorsey, Michael Boynton, Cindy Berube

Welcome: Mr. Boynton welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cathy Girvan will be representing the School Nurses.

Minutes: MOTION moved by Mr. Louis Harris, to approve the minutes of September 17, 2008 seconded by Dr. Dorsey VOTED 11-0-1 (Mr. Boynton abstained, Ms. Walker not present)

### **UPDATES**

**MRC Emergency Dispensing Site Drill For Flu Clinic:** Robin reported that it was a great drill. We conducted a survey and all the volunteers felt useful, the flow was good and it did not take a long time to break everything down. From the steering committee I have comments to make it better next year. We had 267 people at the flu clinic and we expect a lot today.

Dr. Dorsey felt it went very well. Mr. Boynton suggested at this point, since you have had some functions, I would say it is time for update to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting. It would be a good idea to give them a refresher as to what the MRC is all about.

Dr. Dorsey said it would be nice for them to hear something good. Robin reported that behavioral health unit of the MRC is being formed. These volunteers will be trained to help people in a crisis. People can be trained in some aspects of behavioral health just as lay people can be trained in first aid.

**Swiftreach:** Robin reported the fire department used Swiftreach during the hazmat situation on the train tracks near Coolidge Road and the feedback was that the residents were appreciative. She is aware that a lot of people do not know how to use Swiftreach but training can be done. The incident cost about twenty dollars to get the message out. We did a half mile radius during this incident. It took about 15 minutes to get the message out to the residents in that area. It ended up being a tier 2 hazmat incident. It all went very well. From 4:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. that area was an active scene. The police, DPW, Fire as well as outside groups were involved in the process. Robin mentioned that risk communication is very important.

**Table top exercise:** Robin thanked everyone who participated in the table top exercise that occurred at the Senior Center in Medfield. An after action report should be coming soon, it will tell us where our weaknesses are.

Jim Kearns stated that everyone should take credit for working well together. I live in a town where people do not work well together and it is all about who is in charge. Walpole is far ahead of a lot of towns.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Emergency Dispensing Sites:** Kathy Girvan reported the committee met two weeks ago because they did not feel Walpole Mall was a good site. We were thinking to come up with one more site and thought maybe moving Aggie to a backup site. If the building is town owned, we have better access. Next meeting is Friday morning, and we will meet with Roger to look over the plans before making a decision. The committee will come back with two sites.

Dr. Dorsey asked that contact be made with the Aggie, they want to be part of the community. Robin stated that the town has a MOA with them, but it is just a question that our volunteers are more familiar with our school buildings.

Kathy explained the committee was not sure the Aggie had a big enough area for registration and dispensing. There are two separate buildings and there is no elevator, you have to go outside and down stairs to get to the next building.

**Shelter Committee:** Robin spoke to having a few shelter plans. We are going to get together and go over the plans and come up with the best plans.

Mr. Johnson has been working with Robin and Roger and they hope to develop a plan and bring it back to the LEPC. Whatever plan we have, we will have an addendum which is the contract with Red Cross. Mr. Harris would like to attend the committee meeting. Mr. Boynton stated that the closing the operation is still hanging out there as an issue.

**New Committee for LEPC application:** Robin is going to ask Mike Laracy to chair that committee and is asking Roger and Jim Moses to be on it. This is for full status. The town has been provisional for four years. We should be there for full status cert, we may need one more exercise. Michael wants to get to full status by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The decision is made by MEMA. There should not be a problem becoming certified as long as you meet the guidelines. They will also be looking for evacuations plans.

**Action Items:** The Emergency Management department is now mobile, we took a 10 year old truck that is capable of towing trailers. It can be used for storm or shelter response, depending on finances, we will be buying a new ambulance. One thought is

working with Roger, take the old ambulance and make that available for Emergency Management. We do need a place to house all of these items. Roger would like a 14' camping trailer. Mr. Boynton is trying to find one that could be donated.

Mr. Harris explained that if you do get one of those trailers he can get the tower that can be attached to the trailer. Mr. Boynton would like to look for some certified volunteers on a list that we have checked out that can be part of the emergency response core.

Next meeting Date and location: January 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. will be the next meeting.

MOTION moved by Dr. Dorsey to adjourn at 10:50 a.m., seconded by Mr. Harris, VOTED unanimous.