

**Walpole Local Emergency Planning Committee
Minutes for November 18, 2009
Town Hall, Room 112**

In Attendance:

Robin Chapell, Health Director; Gail Nixon, Deputy Health Agent; Dr. Joseph Dorsey; Kathi Garvin; Jay Lewis; Roger Turner; Gary Walsh, Siemens; Florence Sundquist; Rachel Hanson, VNA; Margaret Walker, Town Engineer; Lou Harris, Red Cross; James Kearns, Rolls Royce; Michael Laracy, Deputy Fire Chief; and Cindy Berube, Secretary.

Welcome:

Ms. Chapell welcomed members and opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

No Minutes presented for approval.

Updates:

Full Certification- Michael Laracy is working on full certification but spoke to MEMA being surprised the Town is going for separate certification when they should be looking at regionalization. They need to decide if we want to go regionally or be certified just by ourselves. Robin explained they were part of a regional emergency planning committee but it had disbanded for awhile. We got a grant to put this committee back together. MAPC is helping us put together a new start up application. There are six towns involved that have been meeting on a monthly basis and are focusing on getting the start up application going. MEMA told us we have a better chance of getting grant money going regionally and we can share resources. Originally when we started the REPC we stated we were going to keep our own LEPC and get full cert on our own until the regional committee catches up. What is the committee's feeling?

Robin explained we are ahead of the REPC. Most other communities do not want to lose their local flavor of meetings. Everything Michael Laracy is doing is helpful. Michael Laracy explained that he is working on other elements of emergency preparedness. What he would like is one book that has all the schools. If we do not have the full certification hanging over our heads he can concentrate on that. The Norfolk Aggie may have someone to help him. He thinks they should meet with Elaine Deniston and Jeff Trask. The goal is to start with those communities and to seek more. It is good to have about 15 communities,

Ms. Chapell asked that the Full Certification be put back on the next agenda and invite Elaine to come to the meeting to listen to pros and cons. It was suggested that she come in at 9 a.m. prior to the regular meeting.

Dr Dorsey talked about coyote problem. Ms. Chapell noted they have definitely increased and deer has decreased. The Board of Health is inviting John to a meeting to talk about wildlife that have become a nuisance. It is a growing problem in the state.

H1N1

The H1N1 vaccine clinic on Saturday went very well. It was for middle school children. They did not have people coming in that were not supposed to be there. They will schedule another clinic. We need to know how many vaccine we will get before we determine who our target groups are. We hope the next clinic will be for 2nd and 3rd graders and maybe their siblings. The office is inundated with calls all the time about H1N1. The Health Department makes the decisions on who the clinics are for based on the amount of vaccines they receive. So far, they have opened all of their clinics to pregnant women. We have not gotten any flu mist and will not ask for any. The MRC was fantastic. The Health Department was told they were getting an ample supply of H1N1 vaccine and then they were told there was a production slow down. We keep telling people to check our web site. Our absenteeism rates in our schools are okay for now. We did get spikes. We have not had any deaths or hospital admittance. So far that is good.

E-mails

Robin asked everyone if they could supply an Email Address to Cindy and she will try to send the Agendas and minutes thru email.

Next Meeting Date:

The Next meeting will be on February 3rd, 2010.

MOTION moved by Mr. Harris to Adjourn the at 10:40 a.m., seconded by Ms. Nixon,
All in Favor