

LEYDEN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:00pm
Town Office Building, Leyden MA

Present members: Sara Seinberg, Liz Kidder, Dave Pomerantz, Marcia Miller, John Richardson, Anders Furguson, Beth Kuzdeba, Linda Allis

Other attendees: Janell Howard, Ken Medvetz

Absentees: Fire Dept., highway department, Finance Committee representatives

Remote: Barbara Wallace

Meeting called to order: 6:09 pm by Dave Pomerantz

Minutes: Liz moved and Beth seconded to approve minutes with one correction that Beth is a member of committee not an audience member, unanimously approved.

Survey/addresses

The Emergency Management Survey was mailed out and several have been returned. A draft policy is being prepared for the handling of the confidential information recognizing HIPA requirements. Sara Seinberg thanked Janell for her help getting the surveys out to residents. Comments collected were mostly about criteria used to define neighborhoods, such as location of powerlines for electrical service. Sara explained that she had developed the neighborhoods based upon discussions with Bill Brooks about roads and access to homes. Discussion and actions identified include:

- Call a working session for just voting committee members to review some of the information people have offered to us and to get ready for an emergency management public information meeting at the town hall to present the town's emergency management plan. Make sure when the meeting happens to not get caught up in people wanting to change the neighborhoods but to listen to their concerns and suggestions for improvement. EM neighborhoods are still evolving. Start focusing on the captains and then see what the resources are. People live in different areas and see different things and have different experiences. Wait for more feedback before we go forward and make any changes to the map.
- How is the information and individual's privacy going to be safe guarded by the first responders. We need a protocol on how the information will be protected and who will have access to it. The survey is the first cut in the process of data gathering. The committee will work on the protocol, and the information that has been submitted will be in a locked drawer until the protocol is finalized.
- This information is being gathered for a town emergency not an individual emergency. Everyone has the choice of whether or not to participate. Residents also have options for the BPD to have private information, such as the code to a lockbox on their home.
- Schedule a working session - Friday March 1st, 11am at the town offices.
- Leyden Life will have another notification to remind people to fill out the survey.

Report on airplane incident from Fire dept.

David was out of town but talked to Nik, John and MEMA after it happened. It was an unexpected type of incident. It was turned over to the Greenfield Fire department to do the investigation and clean up and then turned over to the state. When something happens everyone goes and there can be too many vehicles at the site, you can ask people to stay

away but people go anyway, that is why It's important to have a command station and be set up for such an emergency.

Franklin County EMD meeting update

Liz and Anders attended the meeting at which about half the towns in Franklin County were represented. Nate Moreau, Bonnie Roy and Keith Parent from MEMA and Dan Nietsche from the FRCOG were there. Nate Moreau led the meeting and suggested that this group meet twice a year to share information. Dan Neitsche suggested that the meeting be coordinated with the REPC meetings that are every other month. Information presented included:

- WEBEOC can be used to request the use of the mobile EOC during an event or during an incident and for resource requests as needed from MEMA. MEMA has a weblink to where there are caches of equipment organized by Homeland Security.
- MEMA is preparing a series of annexes to the CEMP template and Nate would like to attend a LEMC meeting soon to decide which of those annexes may be applicable to Leyden.
- Nate offered to attend a joint meeting of the Select Board and LEMC to discuss the importance of maintaining an active emergency management committee and team.
- FRCOG has received a grant to conduct a regional drill probably related to a chemical release incident.
- Nate is talking with Rowe about conducting a regional drill on the impact of a dam failure on the Deerfield River.
- Nate noted that it is often difficult for town road crews to adequately document their time and expenses during severe weather situations that damage gravel roads but that documentation is required for the consideration of any grant reimbursements for repairs. This documentation has to be done 365 days per year and there should be training for towns on how detailed the documentation needs to be.
- Federal assistance for roads is limited and there is an online map at MA DPW that shows which roads are eligible for federal assistance.— most of which are state numbered roads.
- FRCOG and MEMA are trying to merge or combine several of the regional groups, such as REPC and MAPHCO, in order to increase the efficiency of the efforts of each group and increase effectiveness of providing assistance to towns.
- FRCOG has been awarded a \$147,855 E&R Grant to implement recommendations by a consultant for expanding their role in emergency preparedness and they are holding in-house strategic planning sessions on how to meet the recommendations.
- FRCOG has found that there are insufficient funding sources to implement their emergency management plans at the regional level.

EMPG Grant

The \$2500 EMPG grant will be used to purchase and install cell phone boosters for fire vehicles to enhance the cell service reception in town

- Police did this for their police cruisers and found it helpful.
- Can install one in the fire engine, Tanker 1, others can be temporarily attached to vehicles until we have a replaced the brush truck and EMS/Squad

ACTION: Get a second quote for cell phone booster (Janell)

Dave Pomerantz will take on oversight of this grant with Janell's assistance. All expenditures have to be made before June 30, 2024.

- Other grants - Fire just received \$10,500 grant for turnout gear; and a \$10,000 grant to help insulate the fire department.

The SB approved the submittal of another E&R Grant with the Collins Center to look at long term planning for the future organization of the fire department, potentially with Bernardston and/or Colrain.

Membership, appointments, and voting

We're an advisory board to the SB. David, Sara, Liz and Anders are the only official members of the committee having been appointed by the SB. Really the only thing to vote on is the minutes. Discussion occurred on who to appoint and how to make sure to have a quorum, something to think about.

Priorities and Next Steps

ACTION: March 1st planning meeting at 11am - Sara will send out an agenda for a working meeting to discuss policies and management of the surveys.

ACTION: David - take over grant for cell boosters

ACTION: Incident command trainings - responsibilities and duties, training courses are all online and free. John will email schedule to Janell

Public Comments and other business not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting – nothing presented

Schedule next meeting(s)

- Working session March 1, 2024 at 11 am town offices
- March 14, 2024 at 6 pm at the town offices
- April 11, 2024 at 6 pm at the town offices

Motion: David moved and Sara seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:42pm, unanimously approved.

Adjourn: 7:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Howard

Administrative Assistant