

LEYDEN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Working Session
Friday March 1, 2024
11:00 am
7 Brattleboro Rd.
Leyden, MA 01301

Present members: Sara Seinberg, Liz Kidder, Dave Pomerantz, Anders Furguson
Department Representatives: Carey Barton
Other attendees: Janell Howard

Meeting called to order at 11:08am by Dave Pomerantz

Minutes: David moved and Anders seconded to approve 2-8-24 minutes, unanimously approved.

Feedback on surveys discussion

So far, the LEMC has received 40 surveys. They remain unopened and locked in a filing cabinet in the LEMC office until a policy is approved. No other feedback has been received other than the feedback prior to the last meeting.

Survey policy finalization

The Select Board and the LEMC are working on a policy to address the handling of residents' personal information, taking into account residents' concerns about who has access to the information, any legal questions regarding the information and what the information will be used for. Sara read aloud the draft for the Handling Residents Personal Information policy. The policy is comprehensive. Personal information will not need to be used for emergency drills; all emergency drills will be hypothetical thus personal information will still be confidential.

Motion: Liz moved and Sara seconded to send the SB the corrected Handling Residents Personal Information policy draft, unanimously approved.

ACTION: Sara volunteered to send the correction of the Handling Residents Personal Information policy draft to the SB with the blessing of the LEMC

Feedback on map discussion

The LEMC has received feedback from two residents for suggestions for map lines. One was to consider the power line boundaries when considering how to split up the neighborhood boundaries, which ended up not being as useful as it might at first seem. It all depends on what kind of emergency Leyden is experiencing as to what type of criteria create the boundaries.

One of the purposes of the LEMC is to plan how a small town like ours responds in a way to help each other if the state is not going to be able to get help to us in 7-10 days. Sara and Highway created small neighborhoods with captains who would be able to check on and help the neighbors in their neighborhood block and then report back to EMD based on the accessibility of the roadways to neighborhoods. Nine neighborhoods were created so that the EMD could easily communicate with the nine neighborhood captains.

The other feedback suggested looking at small neighbor clusters that already exist in town and creating the neighborhoods based on that. There is a group of people in the center of town that

is divided into the three neighborhoods on the emergency management map. They would all look out for each other anyway so it seems a little odd to split the community into three neighborhoods. Sara and Highway started from the Bog and moved outwards, starting with the most vulnerable. The Town Hall could also be a spot to congregate or meet if necessary so it was best not to put the Town Hall in one neighborhood but create the neighborhoods around it. It is also the goal to get people to talk to people they don't normally talk to so that our town can have a good strong community everywhere. The more people know each other the stronger our town will be in an emergency.

ACTION: David will reach out to respond to email and mention that the map is evolving and not in concrete.

Neighborhood captains are encouraged to organize Neighborhood get togethers, especially with food since that helps bring people out to activities. The Town Hall and Avery Fields Pavilion will be available for neighborhoods to use for these events. Neighborhoods are encouraged to be creative on ways to get to know each other and stay in contact.

Plan for Spring Town Hall on CEMP

Mid-May the LEMC will present the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to the town and show the map. There will be food, the neighborhood concept will be introduced and neighborhood captains will be explained. There will also be an opportunity to volunteer as a neighborhood captain. At the next LEMC meeting an exact date for the CEMP presentation will be chosen.

FRCOG Tabletop drill

Typically when the town runs an emergency drill MEMA will run it not the FRCOG. However, FRCOG from a public health stand point would like to do an emergency drill. It probably stems from a grant they got for public health drills.

December of 2022 MEMA did a drill in Bernardston, including Leyden, at the church. The drill lasted about three hours and was great. They broke people up into groups, and gave each group scenarios and how to respond. The drill will be weather related based upon some kind of wet event-- hurricane, flooding. The plan is to do this after the annual town meeting.

Other items not anticipated by the chair within the 48 hour posting period

Leadership chart-

- Erica would like to become CO-EMD again and needs to confirm that is possible since she is a SB member.
- Anders would be a Citizen Representative instead of an alternate for Public Safety Planner
- Marcia Miller as Pet Welfare/BOH, she's a professional VET Technician

The only voting that usually happens in a LEMC meeting is to approve the minutes so it isn't; as necessary to have appointed members. Nothing else really needs votes. The LEMC is being created as we go and the SB approves the plan/change.

ACTION: Liz will talk to SB about Anders, Marcia, Erica, getting appointed

Budget

\$1,600 Stipend

\$2700 expense account
\$2000 Community Educational Events
\$150 REPC

As the town LEMC is evolving the committee will look for future needs, this year LEMC will submit the same budget as last year.

ACTION: David will submit the budget to the finance committee

Ideas for budget:

- Jackets - for emergency management
- ID Badges - for emergency management
- Budget for neighborhood meetings

Fire Truck Bid Update

Fire had a bid opening and no bids were made on a mini-pumper. The Fire department is having a terrible time purchasing a vehicle. Liz is working with government representatives to try to get Leyden an emergency status so that we can go get the fire truck that the town needs.

Motion: Liz moved and Anders seconded to adjourn meeting at 12:17pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Janell Howard

Administrative Assistant