

Minutes Emergency Management

Monday, 25 April 2022 – Fire Station – 9:00am

Present

Tom Finnegan EMD

Richard Meyer Deputy EMD

Bill Chase Deputy EMD

1. Fire Station Update – The town has contracted with Steve Horton to be Owners' Representative and with Mike Petrovick to be architect. The conservation Committee is meeting tomorrow to discuss the issue of fire truck cleaning waste water runoff. There are concerns of potential harm to neighboring property.

The Fire Dept is beginning to pack up and find storage of equipment currently in the fire station prior to the station being demolished. We will need to find storage for the emergency management equipment currently stored in the fire station. It is anticipated construction on the new fire station will begin in the fall of 2022.

2. EOP Update process - The grant application for updating the Emergency Operations Plan has been received by the NH Dept of Homeland Security. The person who handles it is away this week. Tom will contact him next week to spur the process of acceptance along.

Discussion of the process of updating the EOP

The updating process will need to involve a significant number of town people including:

- Town administration

- Selectboard

- Fire Department

- Highway Department

- Westmoreland School

- Emergency Management

- And other individuals interested in the project

Also organizations outside the immediate community

- Keene Fire and Rescue

- NH State Police

- Cheshire County Sheriff's Office

- EverSource – Conner Jennings

According to Jane Hubbard, the EOP Update consultant, it will take 4-5 sessions of 1-2 hours each to complete the project. We would like to get the process underway as soon as possible to try to get it completed before summer.

3. Maplewood Nursing Home is planning a Disaster Drill. They would like to have Westmoreland emergency management involved. We have indicated we would like to be involved. Maplewood will let us know when. They are aiming for late May or June. Julie Kroupa is the county safety officer. Katherine Kindropp is the Maplewood administrator.

3. The dam at Mill Pond is a problem. Mill Pond is located in Chesterfield south of Westmoreland on the east side of Route 63. At times there are large releases of water which come down Mill Pond Stream and at times has washed out the driveway of a Westmoreland resident in spite of there being 2 large culverts under the driveway. Tom Finnegan and Dave Poklemba have, at the Selectboard direction, sent a letter to the Emergency Management Director of Chesterfield, Ralph Petti. The Chesterfield EMD has presented the problem to the Chesterfield Selectboard. An investigation of the issue has begun. There has been no resolution at this time.

4. Tom said that there are courses offered by NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management as to how to open an Emergency Operations Center in the event of a disaster and how then to communicate with NH Department of HSEM. We should also update, as emergency management individuals, our ability to contact the state through WebEOC by signing in on a quarterly basis. To do this we may have to contact our HSEM representative, Liz Gilboy.

Meeting concluded 10:15am

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Chase
Deputy EMD