

Westmoreland NH Emergency Management

Minutes - 3 April 2025

Present: Tom Finnegan, Scott Talbot, Jim Kritzer, Bill Chase, Mark Terry

Tom said he felt that the Table Top Exercise TTX on the 27th of March had gone well.

It was pointed out that significant participants in the exercise were not there. Specifically, Consolidated Communications, Westmoreland town administrative assistant, 2 Board Selectpersons, the town Highway department, and the school bus driver person.

The Westmoreland Emergency Operations Plan, EOP, broadly defines the participant/stakeholder roles under each of the 18 “Emergency Support Function” sections. Scott indicated that participants/stakeholders, whose roles are defined in the “Emergency Support Function”, ESF, of the town’s Emergency Operations Plan, EOP, will need to get back to him with a more defined role of each individual participant, stakeholder. He will send out to each participant/stakeholder copies of the EOP emergency support functions that specifically pertain to them, and ask that they report back to him in more detail what they see is their role in response to a declared emergency.

Scott would like the participant/stakeholder responses to be returned to the Emergency Management Office by September so that the responses can be reviewed before the Full Table Top Exercise scheduled for October.

Mark said that there is a need to define specifically the roles of the town’s participants in emergencies

Tom said that the Fire Station and Maplewood Nursing Home were not listed on EverSource’s “Critical Structure” list. But now they are.

Bill said that He and Tom had registered for the NH HSEM “EOC Operations and Planning” course scheduled for May 6 & 7 in Concord and asked if anyone else would be interested. There was no response.

Tom said that in regard to “NH Alerts”, Harry Nelson is working out how to activate the system.

Bill said that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is due for revision in 2027 and that revisions sometimes take a long time. He suggested we review the plan and determine if any revisions are needed.

Bill has checked with NH HSEM and American Red Cross as to recommendations for background checks for Emergency Shelter Volunteers. Neither organization has a recommendation.

Mark suggested that we compare our shelter volunteer list with the Westmoreland School's volunteer list as all on that list have had background checks. Bill will see if that is possible once the shelter volunteer list is finalized.

Bill said he is scheduling a Red Cross course on emergency sheltering for our shelter volunteers. The number of volunteers is nearly 50.

Bill has checked with Kathy Cox, editor of the "Westmorelander". The next edition will be coming out the 1st of June. She would like to include an article about the Westmoreland EOC. We would have to have it in by the 15th of May. Bill will work on it.

ACTION ITEMS;

Send TTX participant/stakeholders copies of the EOP ESF's that pertain to them and ask that they further define their role in future emergencies and send it back to Scott.

Bill to write article about the Westmoreland for the "Westmorelander".

Bill will set up a date for a shelter operations course with the Red Cross for our shelter volunteers.

We will review the current Hazard Mitigation Plan to see if there is a need for revision.

The minutes should reflect that the attached list in individuals attended the Table Top Exercise on 27 March 2025

Meeting ended 5:15pm

Bill Chase

Attachment:

Email Addresses of Attendees of TTX – 27 March 2025

Tom Finnegan

Scott Talbot

Bill Chase

Joe Axne, Eversource

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Joe Hoebeke, Eversource Community Relations

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Courtney Jordan, Eversource Emergency Preparedness

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Karen Fabis, Red Cross Northern New England CEO

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Rich Stancliff, Red Cross Community Disaster Program Manager

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Eric Fosterling, NH State Police Troop C	
Eric.j.fosterling@dos.nh.gov	603-369-1407
Steve Perrin, Maplewood	
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Mark Haywood, Westmoreland School principal	
mhayward@sau29.org	603-439-0190
Bill McGahie, Westmoreland Selectman	
townbillmcgahie@gma.?	603-674-2572
Harry Nelson, Westmoreland Fire Chief	
Danille Bishop, Cheshire County EMS	
dbishop@cheshireems.com	
Elizabeth Curless, NH HSEM	
Elizabeth.C.Curless@dos.nh.gov	603-568-3153
Scott Lambertson, NH HSEM	
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Graham Gitchell, Westmoreland Fire	
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