

Westmoreland NH Emergency Management

Minutes 6 June 2024

Present: Tom Finnegan, Scott Talbot, Bill Chase

Old Business

1. We will revise the "Resource list" of the Emergency Operations Plan of December 2022 on 6/12/24.
2. Scott reports that 2 phone lines have been installed in the office with 4 phones.
3. Tom reports that we have received grant from EMPG for radio tower and cables. Scott will look to get this installed.
4. We will need to establish a work party to switch shelving from the office to the storage space.
5. Bill has contacted Carol Austin, moderator of the Westmoreland United Church on the common regarding "faith based organizations" planning for emergencies. She has discussed this with members of the congregation and they will develop a plan.
6. Tom says that the issue regarding "liability of volunteers working during an emergency" has been referred to the town lawyer.

New Business

1. We need to create an e-mail address. Tom suggested we think of something short and catchy.
2. Tom reported on an Emergency Management meeting in Peterboro run by NH HSEM director Rob Buxton. Also in attendance was Donovan Fenton, state senator. Weather related issues were discussed. After an incident it is important to track local costs to contribute to the regional cost to help reach FEMA threshold for reimbursement.
3. Scott and Bill attended the EM Table Top Exercise at Maplewood Nursing Home on May 24th. Also representing Westmoreland were fire chief, Harry Nelson, and selectboard member, Mark Terry. Bill reported that Steve Perrin, Maplewood Safety Coordinator, ran an exercise on cybersecurity breach which was very well done.
4. After some discussion it was decided that we will develop a Community Emergency Response Team CERT in Westmoreland after we get the office in order and review the storage situation.
5. Sending out an emergency management survey to the whole town was discussed. We will plan to use a survey similar to the one sent out in 2012, keeping the medical information separate from the general information. Tom will check with Jodi, town administration, and Silver Direct, a printing office in Swanzey, to see how we can do this most effectively and at lowest cost.

Bill Chase 14 June 2024