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TOWN OF BRAintree

NOTICE OF MEETING

In conformity with the provisions of Chapter 30A, § 20, Massachusetts General Laws, I hereby file notice that a meeting of the:

Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 29th, 2022

at 1100 AM in the Johnson Chambers, Town Hall, 2nd Floor in Braintree.

COMMITTEE/BOARD

DAY, MONTH, DATE, YEAR

TIME AM/PM

ROOM LOCATION BUILDING ADDRESS

Said meeting will be open to the public and the press as required by the provisions of the Open Meeting Law. Furthermore, below is a list of topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting:

Agenda:

Adopt Meeting Minutes from December 7th 2021

Old Business:

Bylaw updates, procedure to update requires introductory at prior meeting, as done in December, vote at second meeting

New Business:

Simon Malls joins the Committee
Grant Mitigation Activities
Tier II MEMA information, Franklin County REPC
Dam EAP updates
Weymouth Compressor Station
Any other Business

Adjournment

- Any other matters which the Chairmand did not reasonably anticipate at the time of posting of the meeting.

Signature

POSTING AUTHORITY

"Reasonable accommodations will be provided for persons with disabilities. To request accommodations, please call Braintree's ADA Coordinator at 781-794-8327 at least seven business days in advance. Arrangements will be provided at no cost."

Braintree Emergency Management Agency
1 John F Kennedy Memorial Drive
Braintree, MA 02184

Meeting Minutes

Mar 29, 2022

Attendees

Robert Millette, BEMA
Joseph Bracken, BELD
Michael Minihane, Health Department
Hillary Waite, DPW
Dennis Girardi, BEMA
Benjamin Hulke, DPW
Elizabeth Maglio, Town Council

Brandon Hitchings, BELD
Dana Logan, Health Department
Robert Pistorino, BFD
Sharmila Biswas, Elder Affairs
Kate Naughton, Mayor's Office
Suzanne Brothers

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM

Minutes From Previous Meeting

Rob Millette asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the previous meeting of December, 2021 and asked for a motion for approval. A motion to approve was made by Dennis Girardi and a second to the motion was made by Hillary Waite. All were in favor of approving the meeting minutes as written.

Discussions

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaw Updates

Bylaw updates were distributed at the last meeting with changes to:

- Reducing the quorum total for certain items (drop from 8 people to 6)
- Location of the storage of records
- Way the group is notified; mail and email

Rob Millette asked if anyone had any questions or changes and asked for a motion for approval. A motion to approve was made by Hillary Waite and a second to the motion was made by Brandon Hitchings. All were in favor of approving the Bylaw changes.

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NEW BUSINESS

Security Changes at Simon Malls

Simon Malls sent a representative to the committee by the name of Rick Tonzi. He was not able to attend the meeting, however he connected with BEMA and BPD yesterday.

Grant Mitigation Activites

- EMPG grant is now moving forward. BEMA will apply for an extension with MEMA because the purchase of the radios is delayed due to supply chain issues.
- Rob Millette inquired if anyone was aware of any grants outstanding at the current moment. None were available

Tier 2 MEMA Information

Franklin Country REPC had an account for the LEPC. Rob Millette does not know if the money that was in that account from the Hazardous Materials Planning grant was transferred somewhere after Amy left. It should have been transferred to the Fire Department, however there is no paperwork, so the committee will look into that.

The Franklin County REPC does now charge a fee for Tier 2 filing. Questioning whether the Town of Braintree should consider doing that to see if that can be done at the state or local level. For hazardous materials (on premises) there is a \$25 fee with the filing that goes to the Health Department. Health Department doesn't currently require a fee for Tier 2 because that's done at the federal level.

Damn EAP Updates

DCR is currently working on updating plan for the damn at old Braintree Reservoir. When it is complete, it will go to all applicable Braintree departments for review and signatures.

The Smelt Brook damn plan got dinged for the age of the plan. As a result chair of Braintree/Weymouth Conservation Commission started making changes to get the work done. Weymouth EMA and Braintree EMA will be working together to make updates to the plan.

Weymouth Compressor Station

The compressor station is at the same status as it was three months ago. A new development, Braintree will be getting a grant for air monitors at all the schools. Will be good to have in the event an evacuation is in order, we will know which areas are safe. Worked with WEMA on evacuation plan and evacuation routes. WEMA will direct people to a Red Cross Shelter, south of the area.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION: People in District 3 are very concerned. Should there be an incident at the compressor station or the CITGO fuel terminal, in addition to building awareness about evacuation plans, what do we do if all those roads are firey, full of gas, multiple explosions?

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ANSWER: (Rob) Citgo does have its own plan. There is no required evacuation area around that facility that is required. Citgo believes that anything that happens at the Citgo terminal will stay contained on their property.

What Braintree has is an evacuation based on the situation at the time, for instance a fire. Then FD would determine course of action.

QUESTION: Are you talking about a general fire?

ANSWER: (Rob) They do have a copy of their own emergency plan – they aren't anticipating effects off their property.

QUESTION: Do you know what type of suppression system they have?

ANSWER: (Rob) I don't know off the top of my head, I'm sure it's in their plan.

QUESTION: Maybe you could ask them about their suppression system.

ANSWER: (Rob) I asked them if they changed any of their plans as a result of the compressor station and they said they had not.

QUESTION: Are any of these plans available to the public? How do we know they have these plans?

ANSWER: (Pistorino) All of that stuff should be in their state licensing.

QUESTION: So do we go through the state for that? Do you know if there are updates? I suggest we find out about their plan, what their suppression system is and if they've changed the plan?

QUESTION: So you're saying that they haven't updated their plan because of the compressor station because they don't think they need to.

ANSWER: (Rob) Yes. They believe that the plan they have is sufficient for the compressor station. They mentioned that they did open houses and let East Braintree residents in (pre COVID) but there hasn't been any talk of them doing it again.

QUESTION: But for them to say that they're all set, doesn't necessarily mean they are.

ANSWER: (Rob) I'm sure there is a state agency that reviews that because of regulations/compliance.

QUESTION: How do we find that out?

ANSWER: (Rob) I can call MEMA and find out.

ANSWER: (Brandon) We'll probably have to find out what the regulation is that they're required to comply with.

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QUESTION: The fact is that since our last meeting, the federal government came out and ruled that compressor of that size with that kind of gas venting should never have been built there and that they should not have been given approval. But now that it's there, they're going to let it go. So that brings a whole new wave of concerns. Because they're realizing that the kinds of issues that we're talking about right now that the community raised during those five years of the legal battle, where actually valid. It is dangerous. It is poisoning us. They are venting gas and it could explode. So I think that if there's anything I can do to find out, to be helpful, please let me know. And anything that this committee can do to sort of fast-track that would be really critical to all of us that live there.

QUESTION: (Rob) Anything else?

Rob asked if there was any other new business at which time the floor was handed to Ms. Brothers.

Ms. Brothers:

She stated that we have to deal with the impact on our community and she's feeling more suspicion of the agencies that are supposed to protect us. They're not telling me what they're doing and not outlining it clearly. As a person that's not a first responder, she said she can't be assured that it's actually happening. She stated that it did help that she got a response to her email from Rob (BEMA) that provided information about how BEMA was working with WEMA to coordinate. She said it does help her and a lot of her neighbors come to her so it's good that she has correct information so she can share with them. She's cautious about that and wants everyone to have the right information. She's concerned that her neighborhood will be charred in some sort of a disaster. Sometimes the information that she reads doesn't always correlate with the information she gets in the meeting. She wants to make sure that everyone is considering the scientific information that's out there about compressor station disasters. There are lots of others and agencies involved and she wants to know how that's being coordinated and if it isn't the responsibility of the committee, who's responsibility is it?

Rob Millette:

Rob explained to Ms. Brothers that this is the point of this committee; to bring all of those voices together so that when there is a concern, either through BEMA, PD, FD, or the Mayor's Office, we can bring those concerns to each other. There is a limitation on jurisdiction (Quincy for instance). But each group will have it's own internal plan for how it will respond. Rob cautioned that some information is proprietary so no one will be able to get the entire plan. But we can get parts of the plan out to the public. Rob stated that part of the plan is with the EPA at the state level and that's part of the approach that needs to be taken.

Ms. Brothers:

Asked if about the air monitors and if they would be outside or inside and what they will measure/monitor

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Kate:

Stated that when the Mayor signs off on it, there will be some kind of press release that will provide that information.

Sharmila:

Had some more questions. What is the communication plan for the cell towers to get information out to residents about evacuation. Wants to know if there is a back up plan.

Rob Millette:

There are back ups and we all have back up radio communications. Rob also asked Kate about "Code Red" which is a communication plan to send information out by phone. Rob stated there are also plans, that if needed, have police going door-to-door.

Sharmila:

Wanted to know what is the plan for people that are at risk, like on ventilators or on oxygen. And wants to know if there is some sort of public messaging campaign. Also wants to know if there is any training going on at schools; will teachers know what to do and will the students know what to do.

Rob Millette:

First-and-for-most, FEMA recommends that those people start by having their own back-up plans. As far as the public messaging campaign, that discussion has started and info will go out when the plans come to completion and that there is something that can be put together and go out.

Pistorino:

The schools are outside the radius, but the schools are always practicing their evacuation and shelter in place plans so they're always pretty well prepared.

Sharmila:

Concerned about people who don't have families and have nowhere to go. What kind of messages can we give to those people?

Rob Millette:

If they're mobile, they would be able to participate in the same plan as anyone else. If they are not mobile, they have some sort of assistance because of their medical equipment. We would need a way to reach out to the people that aren't mobile. Kate mentioned that they were discussing the possibility of having some sort of senior buddy program.

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Rob Millette asked if there was anything else. Asked for a motion to adjourn.

Next Meeting

TBA

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn was made by Kate Naughton.
Second to adjourn was made by Brendan Hitchings.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:53

Braintree Local Emergency Planning Committee

Date: 3/31/15

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department/Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number/E-Mail</u>
1. Robert Millett	BEMA	RMillett@BraintreeMA.gov
2. Brandon Hitchings	BELD	bhitchings@beld.com
3. JOSEPH BRACKEN	BELD	jbrackene@beld.com
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5. Michael Minihane	Health	mminihane@braintree.ma.gov
6. Robert Pistorino	Fire	781-917-5377 rpistorino@braintree.ma.gov
7. Hillary Warte	DPW/Stormwater	hwarte@braintree.ma.gov
8. SHARMILA BISWAS	ELDER AFFAIRS	sbiswas@braintree.ma.gov
9. Dennis Girard	BEMA	DGirard@Comcast.net
10. Kate Naughton	Mayor's Office	knaughton@braintree.ma.gov
11. Benjamin Hultke	DPW	bhultke@braintree.ma.gov
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Braintree Local Emergency Planning Committee

Date: 5/29/22

Resident Sign-in

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department/Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number/E-Mail</u>
1. <u>Suzanne Brothers</u>		<u>67-980-8734</u>
2. <u>Elizabeth Maglio</u>	<u>Braintree Town Council</u>	<u>617-842-6492</u>
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