

Minutes--

March 3, 2021, 4:30 pm by Zoom call

Minutes approved 4.7.2021

In Attendance: Beckie Finn, Russ Hartenstine, Sue Hruby, Donna Paulnock, Garrison Vieira, Kate Warner, Faren Worthington (*Ginny Jones absent*)

Guests: Dan Doyle, MVC, Jenelle Gadowski (Emergency Managers)

1. Dan Doyle talked about a community wildfire study being conducted by SWCA Environmental Consultants in concert with the MV Commission, Fire Chiefs, conservation groups, airport and building inspectors. They will be gauging risks, identifying strategies, doing risk assessments and evaluating probability and impact for the different areas of the island and for different vegetation types. Draft report expected in the summer. Report expected to be useful for individuals, neighborhoods, and towns.

2. Emergency Response Survey. 1700 sent out, 540 responses.

Lessons and other things learned:

having people do it online would be easier (for us.)

Missing out on having people actively check off where they could help

Lots of people want a wellness check in call

Hard to read handwriting

We weren't ready for this big response!

Shocked by how many had mobility issues

Paper survey skews towards older age group

Only went to property owners—most young people not homeowners

Good response to people willing to do CERT training

Subcommittee formed: Beckie, Faren, Rob, and Russ

Next steps: organize data, data evaluation assessment (define work, now what?)

reach out to people to get them registered for CodeRED, reach out to road associations

3. Minutes from February 3, 2021 approved.

4. Garrison reported on phone meeting with Jim Malkin of Chilmark climate committee.

They are looking to develop an alternate route should South Road be flooded. (possibly at crossing of Tiasquam or Meeting House Way) No next steps with Jim as yet.

Looking to designate South Road as an emergency route. Garrison will be contacting Stacy who is the State Highway contact.

Garrison says that in a major weather event our highway department will be focused on the places where the most people are: Tiah's Cove Road, Old County Road, Lambert's Cove Road not on the North Road where we don't have as many residents.

Discussion of Middle Road perhaps being a better road for secondary emergency route. Garrison will discuss with the Police and Fire Chiefs.

5. Discussion of shelter options. WT School cannot be designated as an official shelter at this time due to lack of certified emergency personnel. (shortage on island) School at minimum can be a water source and a distribution center.

Aquinnah has formed a CERT team and designated their Town Hall as a warming shelter. Beckie serves on that team. We have the library as a cooling shelter and Russ has opened up the Public Safety building at times as a warming shelter.

Goal is to form our CERT team, get them trained and then see if we can do some sort of a shelter at the school. **Noli Taylor will come to our next meeting to discuss the approach Aquinnah has taken.**

6. Resilience grant update

Solar canopy was discussed with Historic District Commission. If ever it went ahead, it seems it would be better sited on the north side of the parking lot, away from the library plantings.

Library will be the first building with solar and batteries.

An MVP Expression of Interest was sent out asking for funds to study how to make the school's middle school wing more energy-efficient and ready for resilience. The grant would be used to determine an approach to that area, a cost for the work and as an educational tool to show townspeople what is needed for resilience of our municipal buildings and what they might do at home. (Not likely that our idea is a perfect match for their funding goals.)

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm

Next meeting is April 7, 4:30 pm