

Aquinnah CERT Meeting

December 5th, 2019

Present: Rudy Sanfilippo; Rhandi Belain; Gabbi Camilleri; Bret Stearns; Ilona Metell; Paul Manning; Gary Robinson; Forrest Filler; Carla Cuch; Chris Manning; Chuck Cotonoir; Noli Taylor

Next steps:

All: Join us for our next CERT meeting on February 6th at 5pm

All: Come to the MVP listening session on January 16th at 5pm at Town Hall to hear the key climate threats to our town and the ideas generated by townspeople in November to address those threats

Bret: Develop MOU for the Town and Tribe on a sheltering agreement

Ilona: Send Bret operations manual for the shelter

Bret: Work on a site-specific policy for how sheltering will work at the Community Center, including where pets could be sheltered, etc.

Carla, Kathie and Bret: Re-configure list of what supplies are needed for the warming shelter at Town Hall

Bret: Work with Eddie Blanchard at the Red Cross to set a shelter volunteer training date in early February to be held at the Tribe

Gabbi: Work with Rudy and Sam Hart on procuring radios and connect with Forrest to help with set up and training for them; check with Gordon Perry to see if he could be another "Neighborhood Captain" with a radio

Gabbi: Share spreadsheet of responses from town residents to CERT survey with town emergency responders to make sure they know who has asked us to be checked in on and need special accommodations in case of storms

Forrest: Send Bret specs on costs for special emergency radios you put together for Phoenix

Gabbi and Gary: Work together to make special Code Red lists of those who've asked to be checked in on in case of Emergencies so we can target messages to them before storms arrive

Bret: Develop a system at the Tribe to be able to help callers set up an account on Code Red; work with Gary/Ilona to get familiar with the system and pass on to your staff; then we can promote this to the community for anyone who needs help getting set up

Noli: Talk with Chris Seidel to see if the MVC could help map where folks are who want to be checked in on in storms, defining zones for neighborhood captains, and mapping AED locations in town

Noli: Talk with the MV Times (ideally before the end of December!) to encourage people to sign up for Code Red and who they can call for help if help is needed getting an account

Gary: Talk with Josh N. about organizing a Fire Resilient Communities discussion and hands-on fire safety training in Aquinnah in the later part of April; set a date and location for this; as date approaches, promote to boating community and teens

Gary and Bret: Organize CPR training in March, to be hosted at the Tribe's Community Center

Rhandi: Order two radios for the police department that can communicate with our neighborhood captains

Chuck and Bret: Work on installing a radio at the Community Center that can communicate with the county and others in emergencies

Gabbi: Send letters to all how've asked for special accommodations in storms about who their Neighborhood Captain is who will work with Emergency Services to try and check in on them during/before/after storm events

Gabbi, Isaac and Forrest: Divvy up people who want help during storm events by Neighborhood Captain

Discussion:

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan:

Join us January 16th at 5pm at the Town Hall for a presentation on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning process our town held in November.

The MVP full-day planning meeting, facilitated by the Martha's Vineyard Commission, helped us identify key climate risks to our town and generate ideas about priority action steps we could take to address those risks. 40 people joined in the planning meeting. Once we settle on priority actions the town will be able to apply to the state for funds to implement those actions.

On the 16th, the MVP Core Team will be presenting information on the town climate risks and the ideas that emerged from the full-day planning meeting, and soliciting feedback from those who weren't present about ideas we may have missed, questions, and suggestions for next steps. There will be a second listening session in March to present our draft report.

Sheltering:

Carla, Kathie Olsen and Bret met to talk about sheltering possibilities in town. They suggested the Town Hall could be a daytime warming shelter, and the Tribe's Community Center would be the overnight shelter and central kitchen for preparing meals for the community in emergency events.

The Tribe became an official Red Cross shelter in the past year. It's a great location, with a kitchen, generator, bathroom, showers, water coolers, and more. Bret says they could accommodate 200 people at the Community Center.

Bret brought forward the proposal for the Community Center to be the main overnight shelter in Aquinnah to the Tribal Council, who approved without hesitation. Bret is now gearing up the shelter with materials; he ordered 50 new cots, has blankets, and is looking at kitchen equipment and ordering toiletry supplies. He'll also consider pets in his planning for a site-specific manual for the Community Center's sheltering protocols. MV DART is a local resource that could help advise on this.

Ilona said that in an emergency the Red Cross would also plan to come up to the shelter with staffing and supplies, and Homeland Security also has materials on the island to help. The Medical Reserve Corps are back-up medical support; do we have MRC members in Aquinnah? Just in case the town were to be inaccessible in an emergency situation or if these resources were stretched too thin, we're going to try and be as self-sufficient as possible.

Sheltering committee will reconfigure the list of supplies we need for the Town Hall warming center and kitchen supplies we need for the Community Center to bring forward to the group.

Bret will spend a month or so reviewing all this and will then run a sheltering drill during a less severe storm this winter.

Communication:

We have a small group of “Neighborhood Captains” with radios who’ve offered to be in touch with one another and emergency services personnel about needs across town during emergency events: Isaac Taylor; Gabbi Camilleri; Bill Lake already have radios that Forrest has helped them program and is training them to use. Hoping Rudy Sanfilippo, Sam Hart, and Gordon Perry will join this crew too.

Try and identify events in town that our radio team could participate in to get practical experience using their radios.

Police Department will buy two radios like the Neighborhood Captains have so the Captains can be in touch with them and they can reach Gary and others if cell/phone lines are down

Bret will install a radio at the shelter to communicate with the County and others; Chuck and Bret will work on this.

Code Red is a great resource to help people know when storm events are coming and details about where to go for sheltering, etc. Gary is our point person for Code Red.

Trainings/Education:

Fire Resilient Communities program can come talk with people in town about safeguarding properties and other fire safety tips and skills.

Aim for spring fire safety training and CPR training.