

CERT Meeting 1/6/22 Minutes

Held at the Aquinnah Town Hall. The walk through at the tribal community center shelter was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

Present: Gabbi, Beckie, Zach, Chris, Noli, Kathie, Carla, Randhi, Barbara

Chris, Zach and Beckie brought a layout of the tribal community center/overnight shelter. They discussed the strategy in the event of the shelter being activated and had a clear plan which covered everything from signing people in, separating covid positive residents to how to share the bathrooms, etc. They have at least 50 cots, plenty of blankets, rapid covid testing kits, and plenty of supplies to keep people comfortable. The overnight shelter is equipped to handle pets outside or in one of the trailers with 10 cages. Parking is available at the community center, with parking available at many close locations including the tribal administrative building and along Black Brook rd.

Gabbi was asked to check in with the Aquinnah Health Dept. to see if we could get 50 covid tests for the warming shelter. Barbara said she would ask Sarah Saltonstall also. If the Health Department cannot help, Carla said she would let Chris and Beckie know so they could see if the Wampanoag tribe could help with supplying rapid tests.

Update. CERT will be receiving 50 covid rapid tests on Tuesday.

Discussed was how to reach out to the community to recruit volunteers to help at the warming shelter and the overnight shelter. Gabbi, Kathie and Beckie will work together to write a flyer which will go into the Toad Rock Times, the Aquinnah town Facebook page, Molly Purves MV Times town column, and the sent out to the town email list.

Kathie created a "Staffing Needs" listing of tasks and shift needs and Sign in sheet for the shelters, as well job descriptions for each shelter team. Copies were given to all present, and are attached to these minutes.

Safety for those staying at the shelters as well as the volunteers was discussed and the rangers and Chief Belain said their presence would be available at the shelters and always close by.

Brought up was the importance for a clear chain of command when the time came to activate the shelters. All agreed this would be part of the training.

Gabbi mentioned using the siren at the fire station to alert the town residents when it was safe enough to go to the shelter for both volunteers and residents when the power, cell service and internet were all down and there was no other way to communicate.

A meeting just for potential volunteers will be held first on Feb. 19th, 1:30 pm at the Aquinnah Town Hall, with a March meeting for a volunteer training to follow. People who want to volunteer at the overnight shelter will also need to take the Red Cross on-line training. Chris will check to make sure this is still available.

Beckie mentioned that she had just received word from Bret that cell service boosters have been installed around the tribe to enhance cell service.

There will be a Zello App test at the next meeting with Forrest to continue to find a way to communicate in the event of an emergency and **if** all power sources are down.

The next CERT meeting will be on Feb. 3 at 5:30, unless there is the possibility of a walk through at the tribal community center building overnight shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Gabbi