

## **Aquinnah CERT meeting**

### **January 7, 2021**

*Present: Selectman Gary Haley; Fire Chief Simon Bollin; Town Clerk Gabriella Camilleri; Emergency Manager Forrest Filler; Honorary Emergency Manager Gary Robinson; Bret Stearns and Beckie Finn from the Wampanoag Tribe Natural Resources Department; Kathie Olsen; Noli Taylor; Carla Cuch; and welcome to Zach Moreis, new Tribal Ranger. Special guest: Rick Reinhardson from the Salvation Army.*

### **Next meeting: Thursday February 4th at 5:30pm via Zoom**

Chris Manning graduated from the Police Academy today and is heading home soon. Congrats, Chris, we're proud of you!

**Rick Reinhardson, Salvation Army Logistics:** Developed a template for feeding the island in an emergency in 2018 with Chuck from the County.

- Basic plan is to have prepared meal boxes available for the island; pre-made boxes can come from the mainland, or we could get bulk supplies and make up our own boxes, or we could give bulk supplies to island entities already doing that work;
- These are shelf-ready foods, brought over by the tractor trailer load along with cases of water.
- There would be two main distribution sites, one at the Airport Business Park (entrance near Star Propane and exit through the opposite side of the Park) for down island towns; for up island we would use the Ag Hall in West Tisbury. Come in on Panhandle Road and go out on State Road. Would put boxes of food and water right in people's cars.
- Could bring food to the island with the Steamship Authority if they're running; Salvation Army also has a plan with Ralph Packer that he would barge over tractor trailers if needed; the third option is to fly in on air transports.
- Salvation Army started doing mass feeding on the mainland in March in response to COVID; Rick is logistics coordinator. Delivered over 12 million meals throughout MA between March and September; had 7 hubs across the state. Brought over two loads to the Tribe of the food boxes; someone from FEMA was coordinating this delivery with Barbara Spain (sp?) at the Tribe.
- Developed pre-prepared menus with Cash and Carry based on supplies they have.
- The Salvation Army could resupply us through air drops in Aquinnah even if the road washes out; we should aim to have 3-4 days of food for townspeople on hand.
- The Tribe has 150 MREs on hand so far and could buy more food supplies as needed; the Town Hall has MREs on hand too, enough for 15 people for 3 days, plus snacks for daytime sheltering. Rick recommends foods with long shelf life, like rice and beans bags that can last 20 some years.
- The Tribe has an agreement with the Red Cross, who would provide staffing for the kitchens when the shelter needs to be operational. If a storm is coming they would send personnel in advance; Eddie Blanchard from Red Cross is the point person on this.

- Rick can be reached through the Comm center; he carries a pager. Rhandi or Forrest would probably be the point person to reach out to him.

### Sheltering:

- If we become a Red Cross member we could get shelter volunteer training for free; **Beckie** will reach out to Eddie Blanchard on how to become a member, and to start planning and scheduling shelter volunteer trainings.
- Lots of volunteers have stepped forward saying they want to help with CERT efforts; let's start defining roles of what might be needed and levels of training required for each.
- One role is someone to help entertain younger people in a shelter environment; having some books and games on hand would help, and people ready to be with kids.
- We should recruit and train twice as many people as we think we need, or three times as many!, for sheltering needs.
- For the overnight shelter there are lots of defined roles laid out by the Red Cross, and they offer trainings for each of those roles.
- Salvation Army also offers trainings; there are online trainings through FEMA as well.
- ServSafe training may be required for people who want to help prepare meals, or even soup at the Town Hall; we should check with our BoH agent on this. (**Gabbi**, can you ask Karen about this?)
- Juli Vanderhoop and **Carla** are working with Juli's wholesale food provider to get a cost estimate for the basic supplies we need for the daytime warming shelter; hoping to get all those supplies ordered up soon.
- The Tribe has lots of bathroom supply kits that came in during COVID; there are many of these left over that can be used for future sheltering needs. There is still quite a lot of food that came in from FEMA and the Salvation Army during the pandemic that hasn't yet been distributed; the Tribe probably have enough food for 50 people for multiple days already in storage, plus additional food in the freezer (goose, moose, fish, venison, etc).
- **Bret** is having built-in locking cupboards built at the Community Center to hold sheltering supplies.
- 25-foot trailer is arriving at the Tribe soon for emergency preparedness supplies, including thermometers. A couple of those thermometers will be redirected to the Town Hall for the daytime shelter; **Bret and Carla** will coordinate on this.
- Rhandi says they have a tent they could set up outside of Town Hall to do this triage work for the daytime shelter.

### Communications

- Aquinnah, Chilmark and WT collaborated and won a grant for an electronic signboard that will be positioned in a visible up island place when there are emergency situations
- Forrest wrote another grant that was also approved for improved radio communications; Forrest asked for \$800 but we were approved for up to \$2,500. This is a reimbursement basis grant, so Forrest will work with town leaders to determine how to make this work-- there may be something in the Emergency Management budget. **Gary Haley** offered to check on this.

- Planning to send out the digital questionnaire for emergency preparedness to everyone in town; **Gabbi** will work with June Manning in the coming week on getting more email addresses, and flagging those without email who should also receive the survey.
- **Gabbi** still wants to do more work on Code Red option on the website; make sure people are signing up for that and that it's being used. **Forrest** can set up a Code Red group for CERT members, so he could send our team alerts when they come along. **Forrest and Gabbi** will talk more about the best option here; will look specifically for emergency services options, can be very expensive. We pay ~\$450/year for Code Red now.
- The Tribe has their own internal communication alert system called One Call, which they use for Tribal Council events, office closings, etc for Tribal members and staff.

### **Trainings**

- Top priority is shelter volunteer trainings, which Beckie will be point on coordinating
- In the spring, depending on how we're doing with COVID, Gary could do a 1-day CPR training in the spring. First Aid could be consecutive weekend trainings with Gary; we'll look to May/June depending on the situation with the pandemic.