

## Aquinnah CERT meeting February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

***Present:** Chief Rhandi Belain; Gary Robinson; Bret Stephens; Morgan Hodgson; Bill Lake; Beckie Finn; Forrest Filler; Noli Taylor; Special guest Edward Blanchard, Disaster Operations Section Chief for the American Red Cross for the Cape, Islands and Southeast MA*

### Communications updates:

- **Gabbi and June** are working to get out the CERT survey to town residents using the expanded email list Kathie and Gabbi created, and investigating how many surveys we need to send out through physical mailings
- Gabbi made some improvements to Code Red on the town website
- Forrest will make a Code Red group for our CERT team, so we will be alerted on our cell phones when there are CERT-related emergencies; **Forrest** will include Bret, Beckie, Chris and Zach on that group; **Bret and Beckie** will send Forrest Chris and Zach's numbers to include
- Gabbi would like to get trained in ArcGIS by Chris Seidel; Beckie has access if we need
- **Forrest** is working to implement the radio communication improvements that were funded through the MEMA grant he submitted

### Sheltering:

- The Community Center at the Tribe just had acoustic panels installed so there's less echo in that space; this will likely be a vaccination center over the next few months
- **Beckie, Chris and Bret** are working on getting room dividers for the Center
- **Bret** will deliver thermometers to town hall for sheltering supplies
- The emergency supplies storage trailer has arrived at the Community Center!

### Shelter Volunteer Trainings:

- If there aren't enough Red Cross staff available in an emergency to meet our sheltering needs, we want to be sure local people are trained to support shelters
- Eddy Blanchard joined us to talk about what the American Red Cross can offer for trainings for shelter and warming center volunteers
- Eddy was the point person to work with the Tribe to secure Red Cross certification for their overnight shelter

During COVID, there are two options for sheltering:

- First: If possible, they would try non-congregate sheltering, and work with hotels and rentals to set up sheltering sites.
- Second: Otherwise, they would set up congregate shelters with COVID addendums.

For us Eddy recommends trainings for congregate sheltering with information about COVID-specific sheltering requirements and considerations.

There are a few trainings the Red Cross offers, and all are now available virtually:

- First, Shelter Fundamentals. They recommend everyone starts with this course, and require it of all Red Cross volunteers. They can offer this with COVID specifications. This is a 2-2.5 hour training
- Second, Feeding Fundamentals: considerations around feeding those sheltering during emergency situations. This is a roughly 2 hour training.
- Third, Reception Center Manager course (for operating warming shelters and other resource centers)—this could be folded into the...
- Fourth, Shelter Management Course; and finally,
- Fifth, Shelter Simulation, which isn't on offer until COVID is under control.

We could offer these over a weekend or on a series of weeknights, looking at late March dates. The CERT team will poll those who've signed up to volunteer and those we know need the manager trainings to see what would work best for them; we will get back to Eddy by February 15th. **Noli** will talk with Gabbi about emailing those who've signed on to volunteer; **Bret and Beckie** will talk with their team.

Other trainings Eddy recommends: FEMA trainings 1, 2, 7 and 8 are good for everyone; 300 and 400 recommended for managers and supervisors