

Disaster Preparedness Meeting Minutes 04/27/2011

Initial disaster preparedness committee meeting April 27, 2011

Meeting began at 7:05 PM and ended at 8:15 PM.

ROLL CALL : Members Present: Co-Chairman Richard (Dick) Franklin, Co-Chairman Tim Muldoon, Theresa Burke, Vincent Coluccio, Pete Coon, Terry Sheldon, Eleanor Troy, Jim Truitt

Absent: Chuck Simmons, Tom Crisci

An initial agenda was e-mailed to each member of the disaster preparedness committee prior to the meeting. The primary objective of the meeting was getting acquainted with each of the members and setting forth a series of objectives based on each members area of expertise. All of those attending expressed the importance of establishing an all hazards approach in addressing potential disasters. It is essential that the committee puts task oriented goals in place. Establishing a good communications link between the various departments involved depending upon the hazard is essential.

The first order of business critical to the successful operation of this department is an effective mission statement which was number two on the items to be discussed. Each member agreed to write up various items that should be contained within the mission statement. The target for completion of the mission statement will be at our next meeting which is scheduled for May 25 at 5:30 PM in the town Hall.

A good portion of the meeting was devoted to each individual's responsibilities within the town and what they brought to the table in terms of their specialties. Key items were discussed for the e-mail that was sent around. This e-mail is attached to these minutes it was suggested by various members of the committee that we include an individual from Bard College emergency management as well as a representative from Tivoli EMS in Red Hook EMS fire departments.

All members requested and agreed that we request a table for hardscrabble day of this year and Apple Blossom day of next year and every year following that. The key responsibility of this committee is to bring a public face to the various departments that respond to real and potential hazards and how the community will handle them. September is National Preparation month the committee would like to participate on Hardscrabble day to familiarize the community as to our presence with a table and a series of handouts.

The members of the committee also requested that the town appoint an information officer with risk information experience to represent the public face to the press during an emergency. It is an individual whose sole purpose is to inform the public without interfering with those remediating the disaster.

The Committee also requests a page on the town web site for meeting dates and times as well as minutes and links for important public information. The remaining issue that was mentioned is the need for members to take part in NIMS and ICS Training.

The meeting ended at 08:15 pm. The next meeting will take place on May 25th at 5:30pm Red Hook Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Franklin