

Windham Region Emergency Management Committee (REMC) Agenda

Date: Wednesday, September 30th

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Vermont EMS Academy, 1096 VT-30, Newfane, VT 05345

Attendees: Paul Fraser (Jamaica), Dennis Annear (Halifax), Sheila Morse (Guilford), Hilary Cooke (Athens), Peter Lynch (Brattleboro), Todd Capen (Vernon), David Emery (Vernon), Tom Tolbert (Jamaica), Stanley Noga Jr (Brookline), Rich Cogliano (Dummerston), John Van Hoesen (Jamaica), Taiga Christie (VEM), Chris Campany, WRC Executive Director; Liana Rice, WRC Planner

Topic: A presentation from Windham Regional Commission (WRC) staff summarizing the collaborations last Fall between WRC and nearby educational institutions: UMass Amherst Regional Planning Graduate Program and the Conway School of Landscape Design.

Objective: Connect with one another after the hiatus in REMC meetings and learn about some of the recent work WRC has done.

Guest Speaker(s):

- Liana Rice: Planner with WRC
- Chris Campany: Executive Director of WRC

Agenda:

1. Introductions

- Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated introductions from all attendees
- After introductions, Paul began a discussion regarding ideas for future REMC Meeting topics. Chris talked about the importance of capital planning for towns so towns can understand their borrowing capacity in the event of a disaster as the financial threshold for federal disaster declarations could be raised in the future. He raised the idea of capital planning as a potential topic for a future REMC meeting
- Other potential topics discussed by the group include:
 - i. NFIP – what is it, how is it useful
 - ii. LHMP – what is it, how is it useful
 - iii. Collaboration with local high schools regarding Ham radio use particularly to communicate in the event of a disaster
 - iv. FEMA Community Response Playbook – how can towns work with the state post disaster?
 - v. Resilience Hub Toolkit – what is it, how is it useful
 - vi. Local liaison communication with GMP on the event of an ice storm
 - vii. COAD and VOAD
- Sheila explained Guilford's Neighborhood Emergency Management Hubs: Guilford's EMDs have divided up the town in 10 Emergency Management Hubs or Neighborhoods and each Hub has an assigned Hub manager who is equipped with a radio that can communicate with the local fire department, road crew, and other emergency personnel even when power, phones, and internet are out

2. Guest speaker presentation

- Liana presented on her work she did with WRC as a graduate student with the UMass Amherst Regional Planning Program, all information and pdfs regarding that project can be found [here](#)
- Chris presented the work that WRC did in collaboration with the Conway School Graduate Program in Sustainable Landscape Planning & Design, more information regarding that project can be found [here](#)

3. Updates and other items

- Paul discussed the importance of generating enthusiasm for emergency management prior to a disaster and encouraged attendees to think about creative ways to get communities involved in disaster planning—one example could be the [Ready or Not board game](#)
- Taiga clarified that towns get two votes within the REMC one of whom should be the EMD and if one member cannot make a meeting, they can pass off their vote to the other
- Paul asked the group about preference regarding in-person or virtual meetings for the next REMC meeting. In the past, REMC alternated between in person and online. Group consensus was to try hybrid meetings, and Taiga will inquire if the Vermont EMS academy could be available for future meetings
- Sheila explained the challenge with road crew recruitment in Guilford and other communities in the region and explained that Guilford is exploring the potential of regional recruiting for road crew employees; VTRANS has some recruitment programs that could be a model. The potential for equipment sharing was also addressed
- Taiga shared information regarding upcoming events:
 - i. October 7, VLCT [Town Fair](#)
 - ii. October 22nd, NIMS (National Incident Management System) Training @ 4:00pm, Grafton Town Hall
 - iii. October 9th, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program @ DPS Virtual Learning Event
 - iv. October 28th, ICS 400 Course
 - v. More information on ICS Training opportunities can be found [here](#)

4. Our next REMC meeting location and topic is TBD

5. Thank you for attending! Remember that REMC meeting agendas and minutes can always be found [here](#).