



**Weston Emergency Reserve Corps
WERC**

Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, Feb 7, 2019
12:00 – 1:30 PM**

Weston Community Center –Upper Meeting Room

Attendance: Laura Azzam, Sandra Ashley, Maxine Breen, Jane Brown, Wendy Diotalevi, Julie Hyde, David Kominz, Stephanie Lynch, Paul Martin (sec), Barbara Meissner (vice-chair), Al Newstadt, Kelley Pesek, Rudy Ruggles (chair), Marilyn Savage, Mary Shaw.

Call to Order and quorum call: 12:00pm

1. Approval of Minutes - [Jan 14] – [RR asked if minutes of the January 14 meeting were reviewed by the EC members, asked for motion to approve, seconded by unanimous voice.]
2. There was a discussion of the use of Town Hall for future meetings. The committee learned that for the time being public meetings are not available at Town Hall as the building is not ADA accessible until the elevator is repaired.
3. Julie raised a question about Sustainable Weston Group and the degree of overlap and common mission WERC may have with the group.
4. Sandy gave a summary of a training program she took since last meeting on Behavioral Health. This multi-day training was hosted by the Newton MRC at the Newton Library. Some of the notable elements of the class included guidance on working with a person exhibiting behavioral problems. One being ALGEE from the National Council on Behavioral Health, an acronym for
A sses for risk of suicide or harm.
L isten nonjudgmentally.
G ive reassurance and information.
E ncourage appropriate professional help.
E ncourage self-help,

Another topic was an exercise to simulate what it is like to “hear voices” in one’s head while trying to go about one’s normal day and perform one’s job. Class attendees were asked to wear a headset which would emit audible messages and “voices” while trying to concentrate on a simple exercise.

5. RR asked Paul to give a brief report on the 4AB General Coalition meeting Jan 17, 2019. Paul reported on the meeting and described the main presentation on Drive Through Flu Clinic done by Everett and the EDS Drill Status responses. See attached handout of slides.



6. Rudy inquired on other trainings members took. Marilyn led a brief discussion on the World Laughter Tour (<https://www.worldlaughter.com/>). The group discussed the \$4800 fee which would admit up to 12 participants. The class is a T3 (Train The Trainer) format. Members noted the issue of physician burnout in Cleveland. Note was made of an group in the UK known as Chatterbox who are people who randomly engage tube (London Underground) riders in uplifting conversation. The committee voted to study the issue further. Wendy noted that this is a broader then BoH topic and will inquire about funding and how we might avail of this training possibly in concert with Wellesley MRC or the schools.
Action Item: Marilyn will research further and report back.
Action Item: Wendy will inquire about funding and doing cooperative training with other groups.
7. In support of people not knowing how to communicate with empathy, Wendy related a story regarding being present when an insensitive person referred to the “hole in the ground” on the site of the World Trade Center following Sept 11 attack, and asking someone who had been present on 9/11 judgmental questions along the lines of “Why didn’t they just...”.
8. RR mentioned a General Coalition training in Walpole on Feb 14 on “Stop the Bleed” and inquired if anyone might be available to attend.
9. RR led a discussion on the recent Municipality Vulnerability Preparation (MVP) program. Funded by a state grant this program is an opportunity to have a planning grant which would help in assessment of a community’s vulnerability to climate change, ranging from an increased chance of natural disasters to the long-term decay of infrastructure integrity. When Rudy and Julie first explored whether Weston should apply, about a year ago, the deadline was short and the timing did not work for Weston especially in light of the required support of the Board of Selectmen, who did not have a meeting scheduled within the timeframe required. Recently, however, there has been renewed interest in trying to apply for an MVP grant. It is being led by organizations and individuals outside WERC, such as Sustainable Weston Action Group and the Sustainability Committee, along with town manager Leon Gaumond. They are interested in the WERC’s perspective and support, so there is a possible opportunity for us to work with other cohorts in town on a future funding opportunity. Mary informed the group that the new minister in town, Jeff Barz-Snell, has an interest in sustainability and may be a resource. RR mentioned that Lexington was awarded a grant. Group discussed possibilities to work with other groups, including Wayland’s MRC and Weston’s own Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC). It was noted that Weston sits at the intersection of several major thoroughfares. RR noted that we can participate and contribute but that someone in Weston’s town government has to own it.
10. RR asked if we received any requests to help at the Malden warming center. Noting that the center recently has been operating long hours and days. RR did get a request from Liisa Jackson noting that there are many shift options available. It was determined that Liisa’s requests generally fall outside of the geographic range of most WERC volunteers, so Rudy will generally not pass them along to WERC volunteers unless it seems particularly relevant.
11. RR led discussion on priorities for the coming year. The next event is Spring Fling in April. There may be possibility to have sheltering drill in Spring also and asked the group if there is anything we need to



do in the interim. Wendy offered to follow up with getting table at Spring Fling event. We would like to have materials for the kids. This would be a change from previous years. Last year our group was spread too thin for adequately staffing our presence. Also noted that it gets problematic to do some activities (e.g., “go kit” selection using slips of paper) if the day is windy. We need to be prepared to handle that. Group discussed benefits of using a laminating machine to help with protecting information sheets etc. Wendy will look into acquiring.

Action Item: Wendy will look into getting table for Spring Fling event.

Action Item: Wendy will look into acquiring a laminating machine to be available for our use.

12. RR presented a marketing opportunity to have message bearing pens for the group as well as “tchotchkes” for events> Sharon had received a promotion from a pen supplier. The pen with the ruler and level elements was preferred over the plain model. There was no consensus on the best color, with some saying that it should be a single, relatively unique color to stand out, while others thought getting a color assortment was fine. Group discussed wording options and settled on something like having the first line say “Weston Emergency Reserve Corps”, the second say “KNOW PLAN PREPARE VOLUNTEER”, and the third have a WERC email (Wendy will establish one through the Town) and BoH phone number. There was discussion on the need to have activities that people who volunteer can become engaged in, otherwise they disengage. Other materials were discussed such as fridge magnets that can help spread the word of WERC. Wendy will follow up on getting actual pricing from the pen company, although a budget for the pens of \$200 +/- 10% was approved unanimously.

Action Item: Wendy will establish a WERC-specific town email address that can forward to a team.

Action Item: Wendy will follow up on pricing quote from pen vendor.

13. Jane noted that the town still has available flu vaccines and asked everyone to spread the word. It is still an active flu season and the benefits of the vaccine are still available. Jane noted that people should call ahead to coordinate timing, and that coming to the BoH for the shot is best Wednesday or Thursday afternoons.

14. Next Meeting Thursday, March 14, 2019, 12:00pm to 1:30pm
Weston Town Hall

15. Meeting Adjourned at 1:30pm