

2019.10.17

**Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee**  
**MINUTES**

Present - Bram Towbin, Amos Meacham (Chair), Michael Billingsley (Secretary), Dan Gadd, Susan Grimaldi. Guests - Mary Lane, Felicia Stefani, Andrea Stefani, Laura Ziegler, Gary Graves

Meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

- Announcement of agenda. (No additions.)
- Introduction of Guests and Members.

1. Review of September meeting Minutes. Bram moves to accept the Minutes as submitted. Susan seconds - approved unanimously.

2. Introduction of topic: What special hazard event preparation might be needed by persons with disabilities or chronic illness?

Bram points out that VT 211 is no longer 24/7 but only until 8 p.m. and not on weekends. Laura stopped by VCIL and has identified a presenter who could be involved in a public presentation on this subject.

The 211 registry plus VT CARES database, and VT-Alert/Reverse 911 can be used to specifically address special needs of disabled or health-impaired populations. Amos asks - What kind of needs will people have... in the midst of certain specific emergency situations?

Animal care is essential, so an animal shelter is desired. Also Goddard's wood chip plant can't heat the Haybarn if the power is off. The default shelter right now is Barre Municipal Auditorium (which has an animal refuge staff & facilities via VT Disaster Animal Response Team - DART).

The Plainfield Health Center may choose to assist - perhaps with screening for contagious disease, mental health issues affecting group shelters or any other significant health issues.

Gary Graves points out that GMP keeps some kind of registry of people who are reliant on electric medical devices. Apparently after an outage those persons in GMP's registry are in the highest priority to receive

reconnected power - but that may be too late. Would that directory be complete - even slightly?

So how does the community become involved in helping recognize the people who need extra help; what kind of specific help would they require; can a secondary backup or destination be on identified; are guidance materials (for the person in need) on hand at the house to guide first responders; can a "refrigerator note" act as a guide to the fast squad?

Gary adds that the fire department is very limited in having any updated information ahead of time, especially with so many people moving in and out of town.

Vermont 211 is statewide and might not have localized resources.

Vermont 211 would be ideal to have at the forum/workshop as well as first responder representatives, and VCIL staff, and Disability Rights people.

Make neighborhoods more communicative with themselves. Identify the shelter locations. Identify how to keep emergency medications.

3. GMP/PUC report - Michael reported on four recent developments.

a. When ANR requested (of Sasha, and then of Michael) a quick response to its request for a change in witness availability, Michael replied for Plainfield after waiting 24 hours for Sasha to respond.

b. Michael wrote ANR and the Board Clerk to find out why he was not on every recipient list (as one of two registered persons making appearances for the Town of Plainfield) and the Clerk passed his inquiry on to the Hearing Officer - who ruled that Michael would represent Plainfield henceforth and that there would be a substitution for Sasha. This follows his written dismay that no one from Plainfield appeared at a Status Conference - called especially to hear Plainfield's safety concerns.

c. GZA, the independent engineering firm hired by the PUC to evaluate Plainfield's safety concerns & GMP's representations that everything is safe, filed an extensive list of questions based upon Plainfield's concerns and were very specific in noting deficiencies in the Emergency Spillway, the Service Spillway work and particularly the design (and utilization) of the construction-related cofferdam. Also they questioned the safety of the Emergency Spillway gates (or even that they would work at all) and asked if why the redesign & construction don't give

specifics about what new gates will look like.

d. Plainfield must file its own critique (surrebuttal) of GMP's pre-filed testimony and any points raised by the GZA Engineering by late November.

4. Other Business - none

Bram moves we adjourn, Michael seconds - with no objections the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.