

## MINUTES

### Sudbury CERT Meeting

Held at Sudbury Senior Center ▪ 22 October 2008 -- 7:00 PM

*Respectfully submitted by Carole Flynn*

This Sudbury CERT meeting commenced at 7:00 pm, with the following people in attendance:

Kenneth MacLean	Richard Simon	Steve Monteiro	John Stevens
Gerry Aronson	Barbara Bahlkow	Arnold Barnes	Sally Barnes
Lucille Dixon	Marilyn Ellsworth	Dale Farmer (MRC)	Carole Flynn
Fred Schulz			

- **Richard Simon**, CERT Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:08 PM. A motion was made and seconded to approve the May and September Minutes. By majority vote, both sets of Minutes were accepted. Introductions all around for the benefit of new attendees.
- **John Stevens**, (CERT & MRC) reviewed the CERT Steering Committee's invitation to join the MRC Executive Committee at their recent meeting, where discussion took place on how our two groups could complement each other's efforts in emergency response events, trainings, exercises, etc. There was a great degree of support and interest to "partner up." It makes sense to cooperate, with each group performing functions opposite from the other group's expertise—i.e., MRC could fill roles in Medical/Psychological triage/first aid at shelters or disaster sites, and CERT would fill non-medical roles in an Emergency Dispensing Site, freeing up medically trained people to attend to medical matters. We are working through the process of how to put all of this together.
- **Kenneth MacLean** reiterated that both CERT and MRC are subset of LEPC, and both are under the Citizen Corps. LEPC held a meeting October 16, during which the Concord drill in April was reviewed. The exercise simulated responses of the various agencies and towns to a "dirty bomb" episode. A lot had to do with communications—and lack of an EOC in Sudbury. Our application for a \$1 million grant to build an EOC failed, as was the case overall in Massachusetts. His Capital Plan includes a request to have the town build an addition to the Sudbury Fire Department Headquarters [to house an Emergency Operations Center].

Arnold Barnes and Chief MacLean are both enrolled in a Ham Radio Course in Concord. (CERT has two Ham radios from a grant.) During the course, it was learned that anyone operating an amateur radio can receive no compensation, and this extends to firefighters on duty using a Ham radio. We will have to see if someone other than paid firefighters can operate the system. FRS radios in neighborhoods would connect to a Ham radio, which, in turn, would communicate with the EOC. Arnold passed around a diagram of Concord's FRS/Ham setup.

Arnold remains a member of Weston's MRC and said their MRC is now combined with CERT-type efforts and called the Weston Emergency Response Team.

- **Richard Simon** talked about the **Call-out/Shelter Drill** scheduled for **November 23 (12:00 to 3:00)** at the Senior Center. Several roles were discussed. Pascal Cleve (of MRC), who is also in the Ham course, may also participate in the drill on 11/23.

Scouts from Troop 63, and Steve Hultin's father, spent five hours Sunday washing the CERT cots.

- **Barbara Bahlkow** (CERT Co-chairperson and Shelter contact), discussing the shelter drill, mentioned that instead of both Barnes in the dining room, one would be sufficient, as Arnold might be more useful in a communications role now. Reassignments are to be approved by Shelter Manager Beth Whitlock.

**Volunteer Sign-up sheets** were distributed to attendees, as many more evacuee volunteers are needed, to bring the number to about 65. Eagle Scout candidate Stephen Hultin promised 20 scouts plus their families.

Stephen will be at the Sudbury HOPE Telethon, representing CERT and distributing CERT flyers/brochures. Stephen has been advised to stagger arrival of “his” volunteer evacuees on the 23rd.

The storage area has been reorganized and shelves/supplies labeled by Scout Stephen Hultin, helped by other scouts and supervised by Fred Schulz and Barbara Bahlkow. It is now much easier to find anything needed.

- **Carole Flynn**, Community Outreach and Education & Training Lead, reiterated that the first “lunch & learn session” is still in the planning stages. Also, because it’s estimated that only 30% of CERT members might actually be available during an emergency (which would mean 8 of our group), many more CERT members are necessary. Richard added that inactive CERT members need to become more active.
- **ICS-100 Overview was continued:** Much of Unit 3 was covered [our homework assignment is to finish the chapter].

Chief MacLean affirmed John’s query about his assumption that CERT members need to prove they are capable before Chief MacLean would call us out and feel we could be of real assistance.

Richard stated that if we are deployed, we will be part of a major emergency incident. It is good for us to understand how this system works. We need to learn as much as we can about it, and take the online FEMA exam. We decided to learn about ICS-100 over the course of multiple sessions. Unit 3 was broken up into three sections, presented in turn by Steve Monteiro (Emergency Preparedness Director at Children’s Hospital, where the ICS is activated every 2.7 weeks), Richard Simon, and John Stevens.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM. **The next meeting will be held on November 12**, at 7:00 PM, in the Fairbank Senior Center.

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