

## Sudbury CERT Meeting

Held at Sudbury Senior Center ▪ 18 March 2009 -- 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	Carole Flynn	Arnold Barnes
Sally Barnes	Lucille Dixon	Marilyn Ellsworth	Judy Farrell
Steve Monteiro	John Seeger	Beth Whitlock	Marie Royea (guest)
Marynne Sannicandro, MEMA guest speaker	Barbara Legatowicz, MEMA guest speaker		

- **Richard Simon**, CERT Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:06 PM.  
Due to our guest speakers' having to leave early, the business portion of the meeting was postponed until after the presentations. Introductions went around the room.
  
- **MaryAnne Sannicandro, Citizen Corps Coordinator at MEMA** was our first guest speaker.  
Through a contact and conversation with Carole Flynn, Marie offered to speak to our CERT membership.
  - The Citizen Corps group includes CERT, MRC, the Fire Corps, USAonWatch (Neighborhood Watch), and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).
  - Many CERT & MRC groups work in concert with each other, as we do in Sudbury. Concord is another.
  - MaryAnne suggested several ways for Sudbury CERT to increase awareness of CERT and promote emergency preparedness.
  - Training: CERT Training is being updated nationally, with some material being added to the curriculum, including small animal handling and pet first aid. MEMA/Citizen Corps is preparing CERT "Train the Trainer" courses; communities partaking of this will be able to train their own groups. In the meantime, when MaryAnne hears of any courses being held in the region, she will notify us. There is also a Special Needs Population training being held next week and which will be repeated—see the Website.
  - Richard commented that our CERT Website contains Newsletters, Minutes, et al.,--MaryAnne said she has looked at it.
  - Steve Monteiro asked a question about Website links, with MaryAnne & Barbara replying. New classes can be emailed to them, and they can link them to the MEMA site information. Possibly a page could be set up with various links.
  - Richard asked what percentage of CERTs and MRC there are in Massachusetts. The reply was that there are about 80 CERTs and the number of MRCs will be known soon.
  - MaryAnne said that as information comes out, she will send to me and Richard for forwarding to the membership. If anyone has any questions, feel free to call/visit the Bunker.
  - Ken MacLean asked about CERT Funding. MaryAnne said it has to come from the communities. The new grant applications will be different from those of the past and information should be out soon. She will let us know when it's available, and on the Website.
  - Richard asked about member Certification/Training. Fall should be good, or spring 2010. Wayland may be in the process of setting up a class; we should contact Joe Boykin, Wayland CERT Co-Coordinator.
  - Ken said our Wayland training was done through a grant; is there anything on the horizon re that?
  - Barbara: There many courses listed for 2009 that are under their CC umbrella. MaryAnne: Described various trainings. The training matrix is being streamlined to make the best use of the money. A Train-the-Trainer letter will be going to people interested in continuing training within CERT.
  - New: A statewide Citizen Corps Council is being formed to set up operating procedures on how teams should be run.
  - Richard asked, Is there anything the state is doing to plan for a major emergency re notification about available resources—a resources list? MaryAnne replied that a Resource Management Plan is in process. She also stated that if a community has assistance needs in an emergency, they should start locally, with the Emergency Management Director, who then contacts the regional MEMA representative.

- John Seeger asked if there were any nearby Volunteers in Police Service groups. Framingham has a strong program. John asked if Framingham had a CERT: No CERT, but the VIPS work closely with the police department. Fire Corps Programs work closely with the fire departments—at the moment, only Lowell, Brewster, Agawam and Arlington have them. See the Citizen Corps Website for all programs.
- **Barbara Legatowicz, SMART Coordinator at MEMA**, spoke next. SMART stands for State of Massachusetts Animal Rescue Team. It is a coordinated network of agencies, organizations, and individuals whose mission is to provide timely and effective response to animal populations in disaster situations. The primary agency is the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources.
  - She offered to arrange a CERT field trip to the Framingham MEMA bunker and briefly spoke of the building's construction/capabilities.
  - Plans are changing: there are additional plans to support the public with debris management (garbage, etc.). SMART does a lot of planning—develops resources, trainings, et al. The rescues are done for the benefit of the people (not the animals). The focus is on *people*.
  - Support comes from federal, state, volunteers, zoos/aquariums, etc.
  - Among SMART's objectives is the development of a Website, where one can see training opportunities and what teams are all about, what volunteers are doing.
  - Included in planned next steps is the enhancement of public outreach (here, a flyer was distributed to attendees re pet evacuation—"When You Go—They Go. Don't Leave Home without Them!")
  - Among other presentation screens were Keeping the Program Moving, Teams, Requests for Assistance/Planning/Training.
  - Discussion took place of events re owners and pets arriving at Otis AFB after Hurricane Katrina. **Recommendations:** Have ID tags on pets; have your picture taken with your pet (for easier reunification). Many CERT volunteers participated in welcoming evacuees to Otis AFB. A veterinarian was on duty 24 hours a day. Volunteers went door to door asking people if their pets had any special needs.
  - In the Midwest winter storms of '06-'07, 30,000 cattle were stranded plus hundreds of thousands of pigs and their babies. Because a drought took place that summer, cattle ranged farther away to find water. In the winter, there were ten-foot snow drifts. Although cattle normally could live ten days, many died in the fields.
  - Middlesex County experienced spring floods, when a number of CERT teams helped out. One horse owner in Middleton called early for help evacuating her animals. Within two hours, her barn was engulfed in water—but they'd gotten the horses out.
  - Taunton, MA, has an active CERT team. During the dam breach awhile back, approx. 2,000 people were told to evacuate; CERT helped by separating people with pets from those without pets. There were many elderly people.
  - SMART helps in planning for Radiological events. There are Nuclear power plants at Plymouth, Seabrook and at Vermont Yankee. A Reception Center can check on contamination, but what about pets? There is now a Massachusetts plan for pets that exists nowhere else in the United States.
  - A training on Small Animal Handling and Pet First Aid reaches out to MassPort air carriers and offers them the free training.
  - Two "mega shelters" are being planned for MA: One is a mass care shelter in Lowell (UMass Lowell for human sheltering and the National Park Service DPW garage for animal sheltering), and the other is on Cape Cod at Camp Edwards/MA Military Reservation, which also has an Emergency Traffic Plan. (Animals can be sheltered in town houses on one side of the base, with people housing in another area).
  - Animal rescue training is ongoing.
  - Important: Language Problems—define what an item is called and use consistently.
  - Community-based Emergency Management: All disasters happen locally. The four phases of animal emergency management are Mitigation, Preparation, Response, and Recovery. When calling for assistance, use common language to relay exactly what you need, the type, size, purpose, and how many of each item.

- Judy Farrell commented on her volunteer experience during the ice storm when people were worried about their pets left at home. MaryAnne said some places had a van to transport people back & forth to their homes to care for their pets.
- Barbara listed some useful documents:
  - A MA Emergency Animal Care Annex, which she can email to us on an Excel spreadsheet, which identifies residents and communities.
  - A Mutual Aid Agreement similar to town agreements can be modified by the community.
  - Approved Shelters identified by the Department of Agriculture
  - OSHA Quick Card, with do's and don't's on rescue of animals
- The SMART Website: [www.smart-mass.org](http://www.smart-mass.org). Check for trainings.
- "It is often very hard to plan for a disaster, but it is even harder to explain why you did not."  
Have a plan!
- Barbara said to call her if we need anything.
  
- Ken told our guests about the Senior Center shelter and the Red Cross's evaluation (they will help but cannot accept animals). He will enjoy working off line and maybe developing a team to address this issue. Barbara said she can offer a model shelter-with-animals plan.
- John Seeger asked about sending a letter to pet owners. (Recommendation: photo of self with pet.)
- One FEMA pet brochure is "Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense. Get Ready Now," which will be ordered for outreach activities.
- Steve M. asked about the possibility of bringing a shelter to the disaster and/or animals.
- Beth commented on using some church shelters for animals.
- Barbara recommended NOT stocking food or other supplies for pets, as they can be obtained (veterinarians, pet stores) but DO obtain cages. A fish net (from sporting goods store) is useful in recapturing loose animals. Carole commented that some items are advertised free in the *Action Unlimited*. Local dog rescue organizations might have extra pet carriers they can donate.
- An outreach method was described of including an insert in an electric company bill mailing, water bill, etc. One such effort also resulted in donations.
- Another outreach idea was to use a "running" ad/banner on television channels.
- Anecdotes related from Danvers gas explosion (when Have-A-Heart traps were utilized to retrieve missing cats) and of N.E. Home for Dogs disaster. Interpreters for the deaf would be necessary in some instances. Judy asked if MEMA had access to interpreters. Barbara said she emails through her network for volunteers.

***Business:***

**Richard Simon** asked for and received a motion, which was seconded, to accept the February Minutes, and it was voted unanimously to accept those Minutes.

- **Chief Kenneth MacLean** announced the following:
  - He attended a Commission on Disabilities meeting in Burlington. A Personal Emergency Planning Guide has been adopted. They will send us the file so we can use it, giving them credit.
  - Bob Leupold (Sudbury Board of Health) sent Ken a document on Operating Shelters.
  
- **Arnold Barnes** said he and **Fred Schulz** investigated the possibility of generating power using a stationary bicycle during a disaster which resulted in loss of electricity. They determined that time spent peddling compared to power produced would not be worth the effort and is out of the question.
  - Arnold (also a member of the Weston MRC) mentioned a Red Cross program they use in Weston, called "Disaster Preparation for Seniors by Seniors."
  - Weston will host an MRC/CERT Open House Wednesday, March 27, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Recreation Center.
  
- **Richard Simon, reporting for Fred Schulz**, said pallets were donated by John Flynn (Carole's son) and are now holding the storage area boxes off the floor.

- The problem of the old cots being impossible to assemble has been solved. Fred reduced the size of two wood components, and now the assembly works. A project will be developed with an outside group to adapt the remaining old cots so they can all be used when needed.
- **Carole Flynn** spoke about Sudbury Day's need for assistance unloading and setting up and staffing our exhibit. Volunteers were asked to let her know times they are available April 4.
  - The Library Display Table's March CERT exhibit is generally deemed effective (people have inquired about CERT as a result of seeing it).
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 for team discussions. The next CERT Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, April 22, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**, at the Senior Center. As always, members are encouraged to bring guests to the meetings.

