



MINUTES

September 20, 2012

5:30 PM

Bennington Station Restaurant

Present:

Commissioners: Ed Shea (Woodford), Peter Luca (Sunderland), Lee Krohn (Manchester), Dan Monks (Bennington), Keith Squires (Arlington), Judy Boehlert (Sandgate), Rick Kelley (Manchester), Meg Cottam (Glastenbury), Charlie Rockwell (Rupert), Bob Howe (North Bennington), Bill Pennebaker (Shaftsbury), Scott Printz (Bennington), Paul Myers (Peru), Janet Hurley (Manchester Village), Bruce Lierman (Transportation)

Staff: Jim Sullivan, Bill Colvin, Michael Batchner, Jim Henderson

Others: Stephen Kauppi (Pownal Select Board), Dale Palmer (Pownal Select Board), Dennis McCarthy (Winhall), Butch McGerod (Plasan N.A.), Margy Becker (Shaftsbury Administrator), Paul Doucette (Bennington Police Chief), Lloyd Dean (Bennington Police Department), Norm Leblanc (North Bennington Highway Department), Nelson Brownell (Pownal Select Board)

I. Approval of July 26 Minutes

Motion (Squires): Approve the Minutes as submitted Second Pennebaker.
Passed unanimously.

II. Public Hearing - Town Plan Approvals

Landgrove, Manchester, Peru, and Pownal town plans were submitted to BCRC for review pursuant to 24 VSA Section 4350. Chairman Dan Monks reported that the plans had received favorable staff reviews which had been emailed to all commissioners. He also noted that the plans had been reviewed and approved by BCRC's Plan Review Committee, again with recommendations for approval.

The public hearing was opened and after brief comments, the following motion was made:

Motion (Krohn). Approve the Landgrove, Manchester, Peru, and Pownal town plans and confirm the planning processes based on the approved plans and the fact that each of those towns participates and provides funding for municipal and regional planning. Second (Kelly). Passed unanimously.

III. Announcements

Jim Sullivan reported that BCRC is co-sponsoring a workshop on the river science, management, and planning with the Windham Regional Commission on October 16 (9:30AM – 3:00 PM) in Wilmington. A notice has been emailed and registration materials will be distributed soon.

A workshop on implementing energy conservation projects for municipal buildings will be held on October 24 (6:30 PM) at Cole Hall in Shaftsbury.

The next regular meeting of the BCRC on November 8 (time and location TBA) will focus on Vermont's new solid waste laws and plan as well as solid waste management and planning in our region.

The BCRC's Holiday Party will be held on December 18 at the Publyk House in Bennington. There will be a band and opportunities to socialize with commissioners, municipal officials, and other people we work with during the year.

Sullivan also noted the BCRC will be adding a new office to house an additional employee and interns – needed to handle the increased work load. It is hoped the construction work will be completed before Christmas.

IV. Emergency Preparedness Planning for Municipalities

Michael Batcher, BCRC's Emergency Management Program Manager provided an overview of Bennington region emergency planning including LEPC, municipal, and BCRC roles. Batcher then introduced Rob Schell, Chief of Field Operations for Vermont Emergency Management, who gave a presentation on emergency management planning in Vermont (presentation available at:).

Among the emergency that Vermont plans for: Floods - Hazardous Materials - Fire - High Winds - Electromagnetic - Drought - Agricultural - Pandemic - Terrorism - Radiological – and more.

Recent Federal Disaster Declarations in Vermont: 2011 saw four different declarations / one request so far in 2012.

Municipalities all have an emergency management director (EMD), this person is to be appointed by each year and if not appointed, the position defaults to the head of local legislative body.

Emergency Manager's Role: Respond, Prepare, Recover, Mitigation AND
Monitor - Coordinate - Support&Assist - Educate

A disaster event flowchart was reviewed. Schell emphasized the importance of documentation throughout the process, including photos and description of damage and use of resources.

In emergency management planning it is **preparedness** at the **local community** level that is critical.

Towns should assemble a planning team and develop an inventory of hazards, assessment of risk, inventory of resources, mutual aid agreements, and identify critical infrastructure (including roads).

Schell then described supporting regional, state, and federal resources available to help deal with emergencies.

Discussed Local Emergency Planning Committees – noted there is an active LEPC in our region.

BASIC EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS: are absolutely critical town/village documents. Should have them electronically and on paper. Forms can be downloaded to be filled out and must be kept current! Chief Doucette emphasized the importance and value of these “BEOPS” and urged everyone to make sure they are both realistic and up to date! Contact Michael Batcher (mbatcher@bcrcvt.org for more information).

Schell provided an overview of Incident Command System and the State Emergency Operations Plan, State Support Functions, DisasterLan (officials need to get training), and Vermont Alert (vtalert.gov) which sends alerts via tv, radio, cell phones, computers, etc. and will also have live maps.

Discussion of response phase including the role of the State Emergency Operation Center and the National Guard.

Discussion of recovery phase including FEMA’s public and individual assistance (PA and IA) programs.

The Mitigation Phase is particularly important in that it is here that municipalities can take actions to limit or prevent damage and loss during future events. HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS provide the basis for projects and funding. There is considerable money available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (replacing bridges, home buyouts, etc to prevent future damage) Ray Doherty is the key contact at VEM. Michael Batcher at BCRC.

Adjourn at 7:19 PM