

Waterbury Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/6/2025

Opening: The meeting was held in the Steele Community Room, Waterbury Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Present: John Malter, Matt Dugan, Bette Lewicke, Stacey Schwarz, Kane Sweeney, Select Board liaison

Approval of Minutes: Unanimous approval of minutes at 5:35.

Approval of Agenda: Unanimous approval of agenda at 5:35.

Business from Previous Meeting: Revision of the NDPC manual.

New Business: Revision of the NDPC manual.

Between our December meeting and the January meeting, the Disaster Preparedness Manual was revised to include comments from town manager Tom Leitz and CReW. The discussion of the revisions was one topic of the evening. The other topic was the NDPC update for inclusion in the town meeting annual report.

Matt said he would email Karen Petrovic to ask that she advertise our board's open position (to replace Forrest).

Matt announced that he will not be present at the 1/27 meeting.

Matt indicated to the committee that while he incorporated most suggested changes to the manual, there were some that he highlighted for discussion.

Due to committee issues with accessing documents related to the manual, the conversation shifted to the one pager created by John. The committee discussed changes to it, including information that could be included and where to draw the line. Due to the number of small edits suggested by Matt, he offered to make the edits and send to the committee for approval prior to the Feb. deadline for inclusion in the annual report.

John asked Kane if there was an update on hiring for the new Natural Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator. There is no news at present.

The main discussion around the comments to the manual concerned CReW's disagreement with the Committee's recommendations regarding mold cleanup after a flood event. (The NDPC recommends not using the Volunteer Corps to do mold cleanup; CReW would like volunteers to perform this duty.)

There was discussion about cleaning versus mitigation and responsibility and best practices and practical reality. Kane offered that the town is under no obligation to perform mold cleaning or mitigation. The town's responsibility is to clean the streets and sidewalk and anything that is public property and "that is, by legal definition, the end of our job."

Kane: "What we are doing by creating this committee and trying to create a volunteer task force is to make sure that the town is in a place where it can bail out individuals who are in trouble. When it comes to the care and the upkeep of your own home, it's your job."

and not necessarily accept his interpretation of the suggestions or his recommendations.

Kane: "Once the water out and the silt is out and the homeowners can be left to finish the job effectively, that's where CReW steps in. Mold is long-term remediation." The committee agreed in general.

Matt asked the committee to review the edited manual side-by-side with the marked-up documents submitted by Tom Leitz and CReW to best review the changes made to the manual. He asked that the committee not necessarily accept at face value his suggestions or recommendations but, rather, that they compare the comments with our committee's recommendations. Once the committee has weighed in on the changes, Matt will forward the edited version to Kane for distribution to the Select Board.

Stacey mentioned the upcoming demo with a company that supplies disaster software (the following Monday, 1/13).

Vote to adjourn: Matt moved to adjourn. Stacey seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: Matt Dugan