

Minutes of the
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Friday, December 11, 2009
Council Chambers

Present: Chair William Brehm and Committee Members Robert Mushen, Don Hull and Fire Chief Cleve Rooper

Absent: Les Wierson and Molly Edison

Staff: Lieutenant Rob Schulz, City Manager Rich Mays, Public Works Director Mark See and Administrative Specialist Buffy Simmons

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Brehm called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

(1) Consideration of the Minutes of the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of October 30, 2009.

Motion: Mushen moved to approve the minutes of the Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting of October 30, 2009; Rooper seconded the motion.

Vote: Brehm, Rooper, Mushen, and Hull voted AYE; the vote was 4/0 in favor and motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

(2) South Cannon Beach Shelter Site

See briefed the Committee on recent developments of the heliport site. The option of having the heliport on the higher ground and locate the cache and community garden on the north side of the property seems to be the most viable option. In response to a question, See responded that the first step to start the process is to apply for a conditional use permit and get on the agenda for the January 2010 Planning Commission meeting. The goal would be to have the cache located at the heliport site even if the garden is located at a different location.

The Cannon Beach South Shelter site will be now referred to as the South Cache site.

(3) Hazards from Distant Tsunami

Brehm asked the Committee about the current threat level due to a distant tsunami. Discussion ensued. Rooper noted that the new inundation map takes into account worst-case scenario reflective with the color orange on the map.

Rooper explained the procedures the Cannon Beach Fire Department has in place to handle a distance tsunami. The department will first warn the public via loud speakers driving streets and beach area. Sixty minutes

before the estimated arrival of tsunami, the emergency sirens will start. Once you hear the sirens you must evacuate preferably on foot.

Bhrem asked the Committee to think about how best to educate the public about the siren.

Hull noted that the media sends mixed messages to the public and can cause confusion. He cited conflict issues with NOHA alert system since messages come from both Hawaii and Alaska and can be inconsistent in their message. Hawaii NOHA Center could be calling off the warning and the Alaska NOHA Center could still have a warning. Hull suggested that due to possible conflicting media information in an emergency, to teach as much redundancy as possible on being prepared.

Discussion ensued on tsunami warning and different types of earthquakes.

(4) Winter Hazards

See summarized recent hazards that Cannon Beach has been facing with the current cold weather and preventable measures that can be taken to safeguard homes. Due to the freezing temperatures, See discussed the numerous phone calls that Public Works has received to shut off water at residences due to pipes bursting. He noted that many homeowners do not know how to turn off the main water switch to their house.

Hull suggested a media tip on what the public can do to protect their home when the temperature drops below zero. See will publish a media tip for both the second homeowners and full time residents on preventable measures that can be taken.

Discussion proceeded on the weather and weathering proofing residents.

(5) Committee Goals and Projects

Brehm reported on the Shelter Committee meeting. The Committee established a list of rules for all the emergency shelters. Brehm reviewed how successfully the generator performed at the food pantry during the recent power outages. See explained the process for fueling and maintenance of the generators. Brehm will contact Bennett about scheduling the next meeting of the Shelter Committee.

See reviewed the list of north cache items that are located at the Red Cross trailer. See will perform an inventory of these items to make sure the list is accurate.

Mays reported that he and See have a meeting with Pacific Power to observe where the trees fell on the power lines during the recent storms. Mays would like to see the corridor expanded where the lines are located.

Mushen has been approached by several Cannon Beach businesses requesting that the Committee do an outreach program for their employees. He would like to start an outreach program where a Committee member could give a specific class on emergency preparedness at interested businesses. Mushen also proposed working together with the other coastal communities on emergency preparedness. Hull suggested that the Committee invite other coastal Communities to the E-prep meeting. Mushen will contact Gearhart to invite them to the next meeting. Simmons will email Seaside to invite them to the next meeting.

Mays summarized a long-term recovery study that Mr. Joshua Bruce from the University of Oregon is working on. Mays will contact Mr. Bruce to get further information.

Brehm will contact Jeff Jewel of the Chamber Commerce to discuss future committee outreach.

Rooper conveyed that Bill and Dorothy Davidson from Astoria have invited anyone from Cannon Beach to attend CERT training that they will be hosting. CERT, also known as Citizen Emergency Response Team educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills. Discussion ensued about getting local citizens involved in CERT.

(6) Good of the Order

Rooper stated that the Department of Geology has recently hired an outreach coordinator and is asking for submittals from coastal communities desiring an outreach project. The goal of educating area businesses, specially the hotels, could be a good project for submittal.

(7) Presentation By Cleve Rooper

Rooper showed a nine-minute video called *Tsunami Preparedness* that could be used as a tool in community outreach and education. He will distribute additional copies of the video to the Committee once they become available.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Buffy Simmons, Administrative Specialist