

**TOWN OF WAYLAND
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
JULY 28, 2016 @ 08:00AM
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING (EOC)
38 COCHITUATE ROAD
WAYLAND, MA 01778
MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED 1/25/2017**

Members Present:

John Senchyshyn (ATA/HRD), Brendan Decker (GIS), Fire Chief Dave Houghton (WFD), Supt. Paul Stein (Schools), Ben Keefe (Dir. Facilities), Police Chief Robert Irving (WPD), Joe Gordon (CERT), Ruth Mori (MRC & BOH), Lt. Patrick Swanick (WPD), Gary Larsen (Bldg), Joe Doucette (DPW), Lea Anderson (BOS), Mike Linderman (DPW), Katherine Brenna (Rec), Shawna Levine (COA), Doug Leard (LEPC Chair)

8:05AM Doug called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

8:10AM Fire Chief Dave Houghton spoke on the current water shortage in Wayland, the requirement outlined under the water ban and its significance as it relates to firefighting and water supply.

8:15AM Doug thanked everyone for attending this mornings meeting and outlined the agenda for today. The purpose of this meeting is not only to discuss power outage in Wayland and its impact on the community and town departments but also to once again stimulate awareness of the need to “Be Prepared.” Doug began by reminding everyone about a “Black Swan” event. A “Black Swan” event is a surprise event that has a major impact. (i.e. 9/11). It is NOT an event that the community didn’t plan for because they felt it was believed to unlikely. The greatest danger to our critical infrastructure is often not what people do from outside the system but what we do ourselves and from the failure to have an action plan. Too many communities today operate under the assumption that the disaster or major event will not happen to us...It happens to other people and other communities. As a result, when communities are asked to expend funds in order to mitigate a potential vulnerability, many look at the event as “low probability” verses “high impact.” Doug reviewed the 12 biggest electrical blackouts in history from around the world. Some black outs lasted for two weeks, one resulted in an economic loss of \$107.1 billion, another left 800,000 people stranded in subways, while another affected 25% of the nations population. How would Wayland be impacted? The causes ranged from human error to mechanical failure and from a squirrel to an electro-magnetic pulse (EMP). Five percent (5%) of all power failures last for more than 4 hours. That means 95% last less than 4 hours. As a result, we do not understand what impact a long duration power outage will have on our community. A massive power outage will impact our economy (economic loss), water supply, information technology, security, emergency response, fuel distribution, transportation,

communications, etc. Unlike a hurricane that we can track as it moves up the coast, a power outage comes **WITHOUT WARNING!**

As individuals and as a community we understand that we can't be prepared for every event **BUT** we can certainly establish basic emergency preparedness plans and principals in order to protect our vital assets. Whether you are serving as a municipal official or a member of your own family, it is incumbent on you to (1) determine what your **ASSETS** are that need to be protected (people, property, information, etc.), (2) determine what the **THREATS** may be to those vital assets (cyber attack, weather event, fire, etc.). What are you trying to protect against? Then (3) assess what are the **VULNERABILITIES** or the weaknesses in your protection efforts. Our **RISK** is the intersection of Assets – Threats – Vulnerabilities. Being a **Resilient** community or family member means you have “the ability to **prepare** for and **adapt** to changing conditions and **withstand** and **recover** rapidly from disruptions. Resiliency includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents.”

“Looking at the past is not enough to prepare for the future.” We don't know what the future will bring. According to FEMA records, in 2011 there were 242 Declared Disasters. As of this printing there have been 49 in 2016. The ten-year period from 2000-2009 saw an increase of 3x the number of disasters from the period 1980-1989. What's next?

Don't be the individual who, because of a lack of planning and preparedness, is best remembered for your lack of preparation.

Personal Comment:

If anyone has any suggestions for our next meeting (October 2016) please forward them on to me. As a sequel to this meeting maybe it would be helpful if each department head presented the following information for discussion:

- 1) A list of who your departments “Stakeholders” are

Stakeholders are people who have, *or think they have*, a personal interest in the outcome of a policy. This interest motivates them to attempt to influence the development of that policy.

Community stakeholder groups can be divided into three different categories—social groups, economic groups, and political groups.

- 2) A list of their most critical assets
- 3) The threats to these assets
- 4) What potential vulnerabilities you perceive
- 5) A draft plan to mitigate

Remember we often hear:

I couldn't believe how fast it happened.

I couldn't believe it happened to me/us.

We can choose our mindset:

“It will never happen to me.”

“Someone else will handle it.”

“This is MY RESPONSIBILITY!”

**YOU CONTROL THE THREAT OR
THE THREAT CONTROLS YOU!**

Thank you all for your attentiveness and input.

9:00AM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted!

Doug Leard, Chairman
Local Emergency Planning Committee