

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 17, 2023

The meeting was held at the Township Building, 140 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA 19425.

I Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the Emergency Management Commission (EMPC) meeting to order at 6:30 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was recorded on Zoom, there was one citizen in attendance.

The following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, Jamie Goncharoff (VIA ZOOM), Richard Ruth, Steve Hirsh, Cathy Tomlinson, Julie Hearn Nicely, Kevin Cook (VIA ZOOM) and Jeff Churchvara.

Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, EMPC Secretary and Scott Nicely, citizen.

Byron requested nominations for Recording Secretary, Byron nominated Kathi McGrath, no abstentions, Kathi was elected as Secretary by unanimous vote for 2023. Byron asked Ms. McGrath to conduct the election of EMC's Chairperson for 2023. Jamie made a motion to nominate Byron as Chairperson and Cathy Tomlinson seconded, Byron was nominated as Chair for EMPC.

III. County Report

Nothing to report, Tony not in attendance.

IV. Approval of the October 2022 Meeting Minutes

Richard Ruth made a motion to approve, Julie Hearn-Nicely seconded the motion.

V. Chairperson/EMC Report

- Cathy requested to change the meeting to 6:00 PM instead of 6:30 PM. Byron asked if there were any hardships to change the start time. Jamie mentioned he may have a late meeting but he would make every effort to be on time. Cathy made a motion to change the meeting to 6:00 PM, Julie seconded the motion with no abstentions, the monthly meeting will be changed to 6:00 PM.
- Byron announced the introduction of SEMBLY software program to record the meetings.
- February Fire Services Roundtable. We wanted to keep in touch with our Fire services providers. They said they are all willing to participate. Pass them a list of questions we may ask if the commission could review and get back to Byron.
- In March, Joe Sciandra from Valley Twp. will provide CERT Training.
- Any ideas for April, please let Byron know.
- If you are unable to make a meeting, please let Kathi or Byron know ahead of the meeting.

- Cathy said maybe go in June on a field trip to Barnston Dam or Marsh Creek Dam. What is the Twp. role? Possible tabletop training.
- Middle Creek outside Exeter. Cathy visited and said the facilities are such top notch. Why are the MC State Park facilities such a mess (parking lot, down trees)? Byron said there has been some turnover at the park. The Police Dept. works very closely with the park personnel. Richard Ruth said the State is in control of the park even for fire services. Steve suggested Byron reach out to Kim Bishof, the new deputy officer at Marsh Creek/French Creek for an April tabletop presentation.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Awareness and Preparedness (Jamie Goncharoff)

- Jamie said he and Jeff met several times, not complete yet hoping in two meetings will be done.

Emergency Services Committee (Kevin Cook)

- Nothing to report, Kevin would like to get with Byron and Tony to have a better update.

Pipeline Committee (Steve Hirsh)

- Steve has nothing to report.

Flooding Issues (Cathy Tomlinson)

- Cathy has nothing to report. Cathy asked Byron if there was an update on getting a sign for the bridge. Byron was not successful with getting in touch with several contacts at Entec. Steve Poley from PW is going to try to speak to them on our behalf. Jamie asked if they were the Co. that made the sign with fancy bells and whistles. He said it may be pricey, we may be able to get a grant. Jamie also said if we are having problems getting in touch with Entec, maybe ask Cathy to get in touch with them. Cathy said yes, give her the contact and she will follow up. Jamie thanked Cathy.

VII. Old Business

- Comprehensive Plan. Byron submitted the information to the committee on EMPC's behalf.
- Cathy went to the Struble Dam tabletop exercise. Steve and Cathy both went. Steve said it was very good, nice to know that people plan ahead. They had 3 engineers present. They disagreed with each other, then worked it out and agreed in the end with each other. The amount of water was not nearly as big in that Dam as the Marsh Creek Dam. Steve suggested getting the neighboring townships together that would be affected if the Dam failed. Possibly a table top, Kathi suggested reaching out to our Police to see if they already do this and get Byron involved in that training. Byron asked Kathi to share to Dam electronically with Cathy and Steve, they can go over it together.
- The BOS was very enthusiastic about the ambulance in UUT. It was well received.
- Byron said the radio base station work order has been submitted.

VIII. New Business

- Capital Funding: Kevin needs to put a true process together for how fire services requests what they want for funding. Tony asked Kevin to formalize a process.
- Byron said there will be a change to the 2023 schedule for the EMPC monthly meetings. There will be no monthly meeting for the month of July or August.
- We have put together a cyber security assessment. Scott Nicely is heading that committee up. Scott said we would need to get a list together of all IT Systems and sit down with the TAB (Technology Advisory Board) and the township. Talk about what is the plan? What is the remediation plan? Ransomware insurance, etc.
- Cathy said with the new ambulance, why don't we have them offer CPR monthly for our residents in the Barn at not cost. Kevin wants much more engagement from UAC and this is a great example of this to provide training.

IX. Round Table

- From a reorganization standpoint, Jamie said we did not nominate a Vice Chairperson. Cathy made a motion to nominate Jamie Goncharoff as Vice Chairperson, Byron Nickerson seconded the motion and Jamie was elected Vice Chairperson.
- Julie mentioned she received on the Red Cross's behalf a box of new stuffed animals from the Toys for Tots organization and thanked Kathi for coordinating that effort.
- Kathi mentioned the Block Party will be on June 17th and to Save the Date and we will need the table assigned.
- Jamie complimented Byron, he is doing an outstanding job.
- Kevin said he appreciates the use of Zoom, its very helpful to him.

X. Notable Action Items

- Byron to give a list to Fire Service for Feb. roundtable.
- Byron to reach out to Kim Bishoff, State Park Deputy on Dam training.
- Kathi share Dam plans with Cathy and Steve
- Byron to give Cathy contact information for Entec for signs.
- Capital Funding: Kevin to formalize a process for fire services to request funds from township.
- Jamie and Jeff will get together to work on and complete the slide presentation.

Julie made a motion to end the meeting at 6:50 PM and Cathy seconded the motion. All members were enthusiastically in favor of the motion. There were no dissenting votes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary