

November 18, 2013

Emergency Preparedness/ Flood Task Force meeting

Present were Jonna, Karn, Frank and myself. There was a discussion of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and how it could provide a framework for much of what we've identified and discussed over the last several months. The thinking being that that FEMA's CERT program provides standardized training and action protocols, as well as access to resources and support from disaster management professionals. Additionally such a program would have the additional advantages of being scalable to the size and nature of an emergency, as well as easier to coordinate with other levels of government.

The consensus was that Ralph share his work on the Village's Emergency Response Plan as he indicated at the last meeting, and that we begin to look for ways to coordinate our efforts along the lines of establishing a local CERT program with the Village's ongoing effort. The idea being that since the County has engaged a consultant to complete a county wide hazard mitigation plan, and Philipstown has decided to pursue its own plan, that a CERT training program might be an effective way to enlist local volunteers and coordinate efforts across all these initiatives.

Additionally it was determined that regular communication and meetings were important to the effectiveness of the Task Force effort. To that end, using Dropbox as a depository and platform for sharing documents and collaboration was endorsed. As well as setting specific dates for our next 3 meetings. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, and Feb 24<sup>th</sup> all Mondays at 7:00, probably at Butterfield Library. Again through regular meetings, the idea is to have a proposal or program ready to take Village residents sometime in the spring. Karn has agreed to circulate the agendas for these meetings in advance, to allow for input and assure a productive exchange.