

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

Unapproved Minutes

The following members attended: Michael Rutkovsky, Stuart Edson, Mike Stoddard and Lew Stowell. Richard Doolan, Brookfield Emergency Management Director (EMD) attended as a guest and Antony Sferlavzza attended as a member of the public.

- A. 5:30: Call to Order.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the June 21, 2023 meeting minutes. S. Edson made the motion to approve as written and M. Rutkovsky seconded the motion. Approved 4-0-0
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public. Antony Sferlavzza described his Right of Way difficulties at 16 Stone Road with a neighbor. The committee advised him that as described, it was not an issue for the Committee or the town. He was advised to consult a surveyor or lawyer.
- D. Review and Discussion of OCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. Eighteen-and one-half hours of patrolling were performed by the OCSD in June at a cost of \$962.00.
- E. Speed Cart Deployments- One is expected in Brookfield soon by the OCSD.
- F. Traffic Ticket Payments to Brookfield. L. Stowell has researched the process of the town receiving payments from the Vermont Judiciary Department for traffic tickets written in Brookfield based on the Brookfield Traffic Ordinance. The town has been receiving payments over the last few years but did not realize that they were for traffic tickets. The public site of <https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/about-vermont-judiciary/court-statistics-and-reports/town-traffic-ticket-reports> was presented as a good source of information about traffic tickets.
- G. Flooding in Brookfield- Discussion. R. Doolen described the steps taken to have shelters ready to open and to have fans, dehumidifiers and debris removal kits provided from the Red Cross and Amazon delivered by the Vermont National Guard. Vermont National Guard members also did a friendly reconnaissance to ensure that damage was discovered and residents were OK. Committee members and R. Doolen recounted the known areas of damage to include at least 16 town roads and the culverts North of Pond Village and the culverts on VT Route 65 in Pond Village. The floating bridge and the road on the East end of the Bridge was impacted and many basements were flooded to varying degrees. The Brookfield Fire Department helped residents by pumping their basements out and distributing fans, dehumidifiers and debris removal kits. The town road crew was busy repairing the roads and assisting residents.
R. Doolen urged that residents with flood damage report it soon to 211 to assist in having Orange County added to the National Disaster Declaration. This will allow people in Orange County to be eligible for Individual assistance from FEMA.

R. Doolen is hoping to recruit more volunteers to assist at a shelter should one be needed in the future. He presented draft requirements and duties to the committee. All present regretted the use of comparing floods to historical records in that one was a ____ year flood. It is becoming pretty obvious that large disasters occur much more often than they used to. Residents must be aware that another event could happen anytime in the future and not in one hundred years or more in the future.

- i) The committee recommends to the Select Board that an After-Action Review meeting be conducted soon with town and State officials involved in the Brookfield response to the July flooding to discuss things that went well and things that need improvement.
- ii) It is also recommended that the Selectboard pursue one or more FEMA mitigation grants to reduce the likelihood of damage in future storms. This would include significant improvements to Stone Road North of Pond Village, Route 65 on the South end of Pond Village, the dam at the outlet of Sunset Lake and the area around the East end of the Floating Bridge. The Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission should be requested to assist.

S. Edson to contact K. Sprague about putting cones or saw horses around the holes near the old fork shop building until the state gets a chance to do so.

- H. Special Needs List Program- L. Stowell to contact K. Wheatley, Fire Chief about having input to the program. It was recommended that the name of the program be changed to encourage people to sign up, perhaps to "High Risk".
- I. Reflective Vest Program. D. Mason looking for sources of reflective vests. There was discussion about whether the vests should be at cost or free if donations could be obtained.
- J. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. D. Mason finding sources of signs.
- K. Traffic Ordinance Revision- Awaiting instruction by the Select Board to revise the traffic ordinance
- L. Public Safety in 2023- Discussion-Discussed in previous items.
- M. August Public Safety Message. L. Stowell to use the message outline provided for the August Safety Tips
- N. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. August 16, 2023.
- O. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting. Not at this time.
- P. Final Public Comment. Antony Sferlavzza spoke about the current owner of the old fork shop needing assistance.
- Q. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Stoddard made the motion to adjourn and M Rutkovsky seconded it. Approved 4-0-0 at 7:20 PM.