

ANTIGONISH REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

An Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee Meeting was held Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 3:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Municipal Administrative Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish NS.

Present were: Mayor Laurie Boucher (Chair)
Warden Owen McCarron
Municipal Councillor Rémi Deveau
Town Councillor Diane Roberts
Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Craig Seaboyer, Interim Emergency Management Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee was called to order by Mayor Boucher at 3:03pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Deveau that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Roberts asked about the status of the Antigonish Special Hazards Response Unit (ASHRU). Mr. Horne provided an update. The Antigonish County Fire Chiefs Association met on three occasions since October 2017 to discuss special hazards response in Antigonish County. It determined it would not support a stand-alone ASHRU. Rather, the New Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department was invited to speak about its Level B unit. The Chiefs were satisfied that Level B special hazards response could be provided by New Glasgow. Municipal and Town staff will work toward formalizing this relationship with New Glasgow.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Seaboyer provided a report to the Committee, including:

- An invitation to participate in Exercise Handshake on Tuesday, February 27. This is a monthly radio forum to practice interoperability with emergency service providers.
- Discussion of how best to present the provincial emergency management evaluation. It was determined that the template would be circulated to all committee members and an afternoon would be planned to go through it together with the support of George Muise, EMO Nova Scotia's regional officer.

- Reviewed his priorities for the time he is Interim-EMC: Review and revise the emergency response plan, complete the provincial evaluation, complete the ECC set-up, and continue with ICS training.
- Discussion of emergency response plan development. We have the provincial template and the AREMO plan has been moved into this template. Specific procedures still need to be developed. Once completed with the assistance of the Planning Committee, it will come to the Advisory Committee and finally to Council for approval.
- Discussion of the growth in the past few years in terms of training, preparedness and relationship building in the EMO community.

Warden McCarron suggested Mr. Seaboyer reach out to DNR to observe in its events or build further relationships given the high level of ICS training and experience among its officials.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of a Mutual Aid Agreement with StFX University

The agreement lays out the terms for assistance from the university in the event of an emergency, particularly how university facilities could be utilized in the event of an emergency. The agreement has been reviewed by EMO & StFX officials and has been reviewed by the Municipality's solicitor. Terminology has recently been updated to reflect the ICS system used by EMONS.

Moved by Councillor Deveau and seconded by Councillor Roberts that the Committee recommend to Municipal & Town Councils approval of the Agreement on Cooperation and Coordination Respecting an Emergency Response between the Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization and the Governors of St. Francis Xavier University. Motion carried.

Update on Special Hazards Response in Antigonish

This item was addressed in Business Arising from the Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of a Mutual Aid Agreement with StFX University

Municipal & Town officials are drafting an agreement between the AREMO & StFX University that would see a three-party cost share for a full-time Emergency Management Coordinator. Once drafted this agreement and associated materials will be provided to the Committee.

Exercise Hand-Shake on February 27, 2017

This item was addressed in the EMC Report.

Overview of Municipal Emergency Management Evaluation

This item was addressed in the EMC Report.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Roberts moved for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:20pm.