

Minutes of the Strafford Selectboard Emergency Meeting
July 3, 2017 2 pm at the Town Office

Members of the Selectboard present were Toni Pippy (Chair), Stephen Marx, John Freitag, Kate Siepmann.

Other active participants: Lisa Bragg (Town Clerk), Jon MacKinnon (Road Foreman), Lee Vormelker (Emergency Management Team).

Toni called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to assess damage around town from the heavy rains and flash flood conditions on Saturday, July 1. Apart from effectively ruining the Town's Independence Day celebrations, the storm washed out and/or otherwise damaged many roads in Town.

Prompt action by Lisa, who set up a communications base at the Town Garage, and Jon MacKinnon, who mobilized his Road Crew to make early assessments of road conditions in Town, it was determined that all roads, other than parts of Turnpike Road, were passable. Ames Road was closed temporarily.

Emergency officer, Bill Burden, determined that it was not necessary to open Emergency Operation Centers.

The one reported problem was a malfunction of the radio communication among members of the road crew, law enforcement, and safety officers. Lee will consult with other towns to determine if there were any similar problems, and will conduct a test of our radio network.

Jon prepared a detailed inventory of damages from this weather incident. We were fortunate to experience less damage than some of our neighboring towns. He identified 25–30 problems on roads that will need repair. Fortunately, there are no known injuries or serious property damage. None of the problem areas is in need of urgent repair. Jon has shared all his data with TRORC (Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission).

The main concern is whether or not FEMA will get involved in covering the expenses of remediation. The threshold for FEMA involvement is \$1.5 million in Orange County. Should FEMA cover the damages, it assumes 75% of the costs, the State 12.5%, and the Town 12.5%. Because early action is favored by FEMA, Jon and Lisa have already corralled moneys from the Highway budget to apply to the emergency repairs to roads and infrastructure.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Jon and Lisa for their experience and prompt response, as well as to Ed Eastman, Bill Burden, the Road Crew, and others on the front lines of the emergency situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,
Kate Siepmann, Recording Clerk