

Town of Somers
Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council
Thursday, February 4, 2021
8:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Emergency Management Director Glen Reynolds at 8:00

II. Members present: Glen Reynolds Todd Rolland, Dan Thayer, Mike Hevey, Karen Hocking, Pete DeBrino, Bill Meier and Anne Cournoyer

Also in attendance were Bud Knorr, Steve Jacobs, Bill Boutwell, Allison Maynard and Kim Littig

III. OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Update:

Steve Jacobs: Updated case numbers - 21 new cases this week. Total residential cases for the town is now at 473. DOC are still difficult to obtain. 149 cases reported in January, however we are starting to see a decline. More vaccine clinics are opening up, Wallgreens is the closest to us. DPH is meeting about the next phase, most likely opening up to 65 and older in the next 10 days or so.

Allison Maynard: 44 residents have gone through the Vernon vaccine clinic. Holding a clinic in partnership with Ellington Urgent Care here in town on Monday from 9a-11a. They will have 30 doses for our seniors. Looking to set up larger clinics here in town as well and will be walking through some potential sites to see how they would work. Working with North Central health to help us get to the homebound. Covid testing is still taking place on Wednesdays at DPW from 9a-noon. Please fill out survey that was sent out. Somers could receive money to help go to certain items from the survey.

Chief Roache: Calls related to COVID did spike in mid-January, but luckily we are seeing a bit of a decrease the past week or so. We continue to see an unusually high number of calls for strokes and heart attacks, which may be related to COVID and its tendency to cause blood clots. Still doing very well on PPE, 15 cases of wipes came in - please let us know if any department needs some. In January we did have 4 members get sick with Covid – 2 outside of here – 2 internal, they let their guard down and did not wear a mask when they should have. Members isolated early and we did not have any widespread spread. So far 16 of our first responders have received both rounds of vaccination – so I am relieved/confident that we are out of the woods in regards to having an internal outbreak and not having enough responders left to answer calls. Internally we are going to start loosening up restrictions related to drills and meetings – we have also started to host smaller classes for the public again (CPR, 1st aid) – using staff that have been vaccinated. We are having some staff turnover on the career side.

Hoping to fill an open part-time position at Selectmen's meeting tonight. Also had some changes in the Volunteer Officer ranks, so you may be seeing some new faces running our more routine calls.

Todd Rolland: Jan has been pretty quiet as far as weather goes. Feb seems to be picking up. Facilities and buildings are good.

Bill Boutwell: Schools are still in session. SES full in person, MBA and SHS hybrid.

Mike Hevey – PD is running smoothly

Kim Littig – Still referring those needing fingerprints to Troop C. Applications for pistol permits are through the roof. CPR/Stop the Bleed class with the FD has been scheduled. Officers have been getting their vaccine shots. Mail is being stolen from the blue post office boxes, just be aware and maybe bring your mail inside to be safe. Uptick in Phone scams.

Bud Knorr: Thanked Allison, Bill Meier and Mike Purcaro for their help getting Somers residents their vaccines in Vernon. Also thanked Todd and his crew for their work during the last storm. Budget process is well underway.

IV New Business

Karen Hocking: CERT had a virtual meeting on Jan 27th. Sent in our 2020 report to the state. We had 10 active volunteers and had 206.5 volunteer hours. CERT members are available to help out during vaccine clinics.

V Approval of Minutes:

Todd Rolland made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7th, 2021 meeting, Dan Thayer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor. Motion passed.

VI Adjournment

Motion made by Dan Thayer to adjourn, Todd Rolland seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 A.M.