

Waterbury Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee
Meeting Minutes
10/27/2025

Opening: The meeting was held in the Steele Community Room, Waterbury Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present: John Malter, Matt Dugan, Bette Lewicke, Stacey Schwarz, and Dani Kehlmann, Waterbury Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator

Absent: Emily Glide

Approval of Minutes: Motion from John to approve minutes. Matt seconded. Minutes were approved at 5:04.

Approval of Agenda:

Business from Previous Meeting:

New Business:

John kicked off the meeting and turned it over to Dani.

Dani presented the committee with two budgets (to be presented to the town on Town Meeting Day) and explained the items. A storage trailer is included at between \$5000 and \$10,000; it's the largest expense. Dani suggested the approach of bulking up the current inventory of emergency response supplies but also leaving further purchases for later years/budgets. Items discussed included:

- Air tags for the dehumidifiers to expedite their return after the next flood (the town was paying to rent the dehumidifiers and volunteers have historically had issues getting all the units back when they were no longer needed at the properties).
- 200 work suits, not Tyvek (the most expensive) but a significant upgrade from some of the suits purchased in 2024.
- Mold kits for residents to perform mold remediation.
- Simple Green
- Shop-vacs: same models so that attachments are interchangeable
- Sufficient tools for 4-5 drywall kits
- Push brooms
- Flat shovels
- Work lights
- Electric pressure washers (2)
- Orange and blue painter's tape (for crew leaders and crew)

Dani asked the committee what they thought the approach should be for the current budget and future budgets, the concern being the palatability to voters. Matt suggested that even the

high end of the year-one potential budget (at about \$11,500-\$12,000 for all items, with lesser amounts requested in future years) would not seem like much money if the town floods again.

Dani said that the next step was to inventory the current supplies and equipment to confirm the suggested items. After the purchase of the trailer, volunteers will install shelves for efficient storage.

Dani then kicked off the conversation around a line-item number that would stay in the town budget from year to year, then went through budget items such as supplies. The committee decided to, instead of spreading equipment and supply budget over several years, ask for a sufficient amount to cover all current needs, i.e., for an immediate flood.

Dani reported that she has been meeting with neighboring town disaster representatives and that while everyone is working on many aspects of disaster preparation and relief, no one is working on everything needed. Therefore, collaboration and sharing are good goals, and all agree the state should be gathering the towns into the same room to do this.

John reported that he had an upcoming meeting with a Moretown contact about flooding issues.

Dani said that ideally surrounding areas that receive aid from Waterbury will also pitch in annually to a response fund. She reiterated the importance of all the towns being in the same room for meetings versus holding one-on-one versions.

There was discussion of the first NDPC training. There will be a slide deck for the training that can be posted for sharing and viewing after the training. Dani is working on this slide presentation. Dani wants to prioritize assessment and evaluation but said we need to flesh it out.

There was discussion about how the muck-out training would work. Dani likes the idea of a picture-book-style presentation showing each step of the mucking process, from signing up to working at a property.

The training will include what it takes to be a team leader, with the idea of recruiting additional ones.

Dani will pare the document that Matt provided regarding scenarios for mucking training with an emphasis on the most important scenarios. Dani suggested that arrival, deployment, on-the-scene, and wrap-up are the four main scenarios that the muck-out training should include.

Dani will send her notes on muck-out training for comments by the committee.

The committee wrapped up the meeting by discussing potential training dates. The morning of December 6 was agreed upon, 10:00-12:00 at the Steele Room in the Municipal Building. Dani

said that assessment and evaluation training would be added to mucking training if she could manage the time needed to prepare.

Vote to adjourn: Matt motioned to adjourn. John seconded.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By: Matt Dugan