

## Waterbury Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee

### Meeting Minutes

2/23/2026

**Opening:** The meeting was held in the Steele Community Room, Waterbury Municipal Center. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

**Present:** John Malter, Matt Dugan, Bette Lewicke, Mike Dacey from CReW

**Absent:** Emily Gilde, Stacey Schwarz

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion from John to approve minutes. Matt seconded. Minutes were approved at 5:07.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

### **Business from Previous Meeting:**

**New Business:** There was some discussion about the Volunteer Corps mucking training that took place the previous Friday. John suggested that in future Volunteer Corps trainings, we should begin by summing up what we've done so far in terms of training and vision.

John brought up the issue of being prepared to speak about the proposed response fund on the ballot for Town Meeting as Dani Kehlman, who devised the budget, is no longer in the position of Natural Disaster Preparation and Response Coordinator. John said he would contact Dani for clarification. John said he would be at Town Meeting and would be willing to answer questions.

John mentioned the Volunteer Fair on March 28 and said he'd be there representing the committee/Volunteer Corps. Matt shared his experience from the 2025 fair: a loud, echoing room, the value of a short elevator pitch, making the ask light. Mike offered that it's more like, "Can we send you an email if we get a flood.?"

CReW will have a table at Arts Fest and hopes to include a stream table.

John reminded the committee that the next Volunteer Corps training is April 24 with Dani and Nora leading. Topics include assessment, evaluation, and administration. **John said he'd follow up with Dani to confirm her participation.**

Mike summed up a grant proposal to film trainings so that people could review online. The last training will be on trucking, running, inventory, and communication. **Matt said he'd talk to Liz about who might be able to lead this session (Matt will ping Tessa).**

The tentative date of this training is Friday May 29.

Mike introduced an email from CReW volunteer Rebecca Mead. The first question was about the geographic area the NDPC felt was its responsibility regarding the Volunteer Corps. Watershed lines and town lines are different things. Matt offered that the NDPC is a Waterbury-only entity; for example, Waterbury taxpayers are being asked to budget for emergency response supplies with the expectation that the money will be spent in Waterbury. However, there have been discussions as well as the intention to share knowledge (e.g., the committee's response manual) as well as expertise and volunteers with other towns. Matt said that an ideal situation would be towns all developing their own response budgets so that the five towns served by CReW could be looked at as one entity.

John added that the NDPC hopes to be as helpful to CReW as it can.

Mike asked about the handoff between the NDPC/Volunteer Corps and CReW, i.e., after a property is clean, how information is passed to CReW for long-term recovery, FEMA help, grants, construction aid, etc.

Using the same online platform for case management is a goal. CReW has experience with Crisis Cleanup and Mike offered to brief NDPC members on it at a future meeting. He reported that it's being talked about at the state level as something Vermont would like people to use. This would replace 211.

Mike said he'd like to continue the conversation about Rebecca's email as well as town-related questions around disaster response, for example, how Waterbury public works determined where the vacor truck went to pump out properties.

**Vote to adjourn:** Matt motioned to adjourn at 5:59 p.m. Bette seconded. The committee adjourned at 6:00.

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

**Minutes Submitted By:** Matt Dugan