

**TOWN OF SOMERS
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 3, 2023
8:00 AM
Fire Station**

1. Call to Order at 8:01AM
2. Members Present – Tood Rolland, Justin Preuss, Stephanie Levine, Dan Thayer, Andrea Vitrano, Karen Hocking, Anne Cournoyer

Others Present – Tim Keeney, First Selectman, Frank Poirier

Those Absent – John Roach, Kim Littig, Dr. Sam Galloway, Matthew Cox, Peter DeBrino

3. Old Business
 - A. Sanitarian – Nothing to report
 - B. Social Services - Due to family vacations and transportation-childcare-resource challenges, some programs slow down in summer (such as mental health counseling), while others boom, like the two, 8-week Adventure Series of positive youth development, sign-ups for back-to-school, etc.

Human Services continues to respond to referrals from our first responders at the Fire/EMS and police departments. Since our last meeting we have worked with 6 families – all seniors – who appear to live in unsafe conditions and/or have difficulties caring for/providing for themselves. We appreciate the partnership of our first responders to help resolve difficult situations. Each case was resolved or is in progress. We partner with external family members, Elder Protective Services, and others to resolve requests.

Over the past month, the team has continued or launched two Adventure Series Programs, bringing together kids who have typical developmental experiences with those who have social or mental health challenges: effects of bullying, Autism Spectrum Disorder, low self-esteem, etc. Together, the kids learn new skills around teamwork, confidence, and trust, while participating in fun activities like sea kayaking, visiting a local farm, making handmade pottery, yoga, and how to write or tell creative, compelling, engaging stories.

The team launched the annual Back-to-School program, providing school supplies, new backpacks, and gift cards to local stores to purchase new school clothes. It's also Farmer's Market time and we have been busy signing up low-income seniors for EBT (electronic benefit) cards that can be used for Connecticut grown produce and other products, like Connecticut harvested honey.

In partnership with our first responders, our Substance Use Prevention Coordinator had been busy planning the annual National Night Out event that was held on Tuesday, August 1st from 6pm to 8pm at Connor's Place off Field Road. Aside from "show and tell" from our first responders about their jobs and emergency vehicles, we also had booths from the American Legion, Lions Club, Somers Comes Together, music therapy, bouncy house, obstacle course, light snacks, and more.

- C. Police – Total calls for service 1168, traffic accidents 9, DWI's 0, case reports 8, traffic stops 39, burglaries 0, larcenies 0, arrests 3.

National Night Out (NNO) was a huge success. There were several hundred people from the community and large support from the municipality and the state to be on hand to include fire, EMS, police, CERT, Recreation, bomb tech, law enforcement drone, dive boat and many others.

Officers will begin firearms recertification in October for the Glocks. There will also be a Rifleman class. The town recently purchased six new Rifles. Police station is getting new camera system, recently received a Road Speed Enforcement Grant and they are getting E-Ticket machines for all the cruisers.

- D. Fire – No report

- E. DPW – Struggling with getting all the mowing completed due to weather. Camp Aya Po will be getting a power pole installed. Hurds Lake Dam proposal is and we are looking for funding for the repairs. Due to the heavy rain, we experienced localized flooding on Durkee, King and County Roads. Maple Street Bridge will be fixed and will add a sidewalk with a federal grant. The last brownfield in Somers is on Field Road. Remediation pending. DOT will be making three proposals for the re-working of town center roadways. We will be getting a sidewalk consultant to work with us on the town's sidewalks project.

- F. Schools – Currently updating emergency plans which are due to the State by November 1. There is no drill planned for this year. The generator transfer switch is getting redesigned. New staff will begin on August 23rd, returning staff will begin on the 25th and school will begin for all staff and students on the 31st.

- G. CERT – CERT picnic was a big success. NNO was also a big success with 10 members attending and providing information about emergency preparedness. Re-certification for AED, CPR and First Aid is commencing. Ray Stobel teaches Stop the Bleed annually which has come out of the EMD budget in the past. Currently CERT has 30 members, 20 of which are active. Next training will likely be next March.

4. New Business

- A. General Discussion –

- Tim Keeney, First Selectman – The BOS has approved an 11/7 Referendum regarding the Senior/Community Center. Presenters will discuss the center's impact on the community, why it is needed, what it will offer and how it will be

funded. Also, some interest has been shown to possibly redevelop the site at the Mill Pond in Somersville

- Dany Thayer, Communications – Discussed the radio station 89.7 (WDJW) that is shared with the University of Hartford. The equipment is located at the high school but a transmitter has been installed at the police station so that during an emergency, staff can either broadcast live from the police department or generate a recurring message that can be replayed during a protracted event.

5. Motion to approve minutes by Todd Rolland, seconded by Dan Thayer - Minutes approved for July 6, 2023
6. Motion to adjourn by Dan Thayer, seconded by Todd Rolland. Meeting adjourned at 8:43am.
7. Next EPAC Meeting – 8:00am – 8:30am, September 7, 2023, Table top exercise 8:30-9:45am, immediately following meeting. All are welcome to attend.

