

**West Dover Fire Department
Officer's Meeting
July 27, 2015**

Officers Present: Richard Werner, John Snow, Mike Hescocock, Mickey Kersten

Also present: Recording Secretary Jeannette Eckert, Andy McLean, Marco Tallini, Ben Joyce, Teresa Friol & Danny Gale

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:05pm

Trails/Rescue Update:

- New Trail on Handle Rd between Mt Snow and Haystack for hiking, snowshoeing & back country skiing
- Wilderness search and rescue training—Teresa and Danny took a week-long wilderness first responder course in May
- Access road and parking lot: Dover road crew would cut trees and build parking area, trail head
- Already a trail system in place
- Bears Crossing to Mt Snow to Haystack—old Hermitage Cross Country trails—not many aware of them; no public access
- Anticipate number of users? Hard to say...
- Between Bears Crossing & Handle House –50 ft. strip of land was acquired by Forest Service in 2010; this can be developed to access the trails
 - 800 foot access path; 50' x 100' parking area
- No services available like there are at the mountain
- Sugarbush has a back country skiing program
- There is an “uphill pass” policy at Mt Snow
- National Forest Service land—can't make wider trails for us
 - Won't be able to drive to rescue someone with a four wheeler
 - Extensive manpower would be required to do a carry out
 - Would need access to snowshoes & necessary equipment
- Coordinate between wilderness responders and FD--Try to make it work the best we can
- Details still need to be worked out—use of snow mobile trails that are already in existence are a possibility—Andy will propose to Forest Service
- Part of working with National Forest system is the marking/mapping of the trails—signage put in place
 - “You are here”
 - “Bring cell phone but don't turn it on—only use in an emergency”
- Andy met with the Forest Service last Friday and it was very positive
- Potential mutual training sessions—perhaps 6 times a year
 - Become familiar with the FD equipment
 - Ropes training
 - Separate pager system just for search and rescue team
 - Ski patrol members may be interested in this as well
- Rich will discuss topic with the Select Board
- 2nd Wednesdays of the month drills can be geared toward wilderness rescue
 - Incorporate ropes, orienteering, etc.
 - ICS course; Basic first aid skills
- Green Mountain Adventure Challenge—has seen more participants each year; out on the trails
- Winter rescues can pose a challenge as well
- WDFD presently doesn't have a wilderness rescue team; neither does Wilmington
- Rich would like to have interested folks join the FD so each is covered in case of accident
- Can take at least 3.5 hours to hike from Bears Crossing to the top
- Will hook in to the Ridge Trail

- State Police takes over after a certain amount of time on a search & rescue incident
- Rescue Inc. has some people trained in this type of rescue
- Timing can be crucial
- Game wardens can assist if needed
- Rich will coordinate with Andy on future meetings with FD
- Even if this particular trail project doesn't pan out, it would still be good to have this team in place

Buzzy's funeral service:

- Select board & family commended the firefighters on a job well done
- Propose to plant a tree with a plaque in Buzzy's honor on the Firehouse grounds

Blueberry Festival update:

- This Saturday Aug 1st—parade starts at 11:00am
- Joe at the Matterhorn will do the cooking for FD
- Will still keep the Firehouse open, trucks available after parade

Equipment:

- Ordered jumbo valve for Engine 2
- Charger for Utility 1 was picked up
- Case of small light sticks? Billy Shea is supposed to get them

Training/ Drills:

- Rescue Inc. offering an EMT class in Brattleboro in the fall if anyone is interested

Wardsboro training:

- Landing Zones have changed from 100 to 75 feet
- Pilots wear night vision goggles; prefer communication on truck radios
- Re-surveying of the trees-John Abel recommendation
- When giving landing directions, do so from the pilots perspective
- Turn off headlights on vehicles parked below
- Max weight of person being transported is 350lbs
- Helicopters don't always fly back to Dartmouth—but to a hospital that is best suited

August drills:

- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays for fire training; 2nd Wednesdays for rescue training
- Aug 5th: Gary—set up driving course
- Aug 19th: John/Mike—hydrants

Other business:

Potential for a Ladies Auxiliary Service was discussed—no decision; a loose-knit group exists already
 Amy Werner would like to organize the Christmas party this year
 Emergency care services potentially moving to Wilmington's old high school building

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm

❖ **Next meeting on August 10 at 5pm**

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert, Recording Secretary

Minutes are posted on the Dover, Vermont website: www.doververmont.com