



# NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Full Council Meeting

### MINUTES

*November 09, 2023*

*1:00pm*

*MPTC Lynnfield Police Academy  
425 Walnut St, Lynnfield, MA 01940*

- **Call to Order**
    - Chair Chief J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
  - **Approval of Minutes from the September 14, 2023 Meeting.**

MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

    - Approve the September 14, 2023, meeting minutes.
    - Seconded by Chief N. Hovey.
      - In Favor: All
      - Opposed: None.
      - Abstain: None.
    - The motion passed.
  - **EOPSS/MAPC Updates**
    - EOPSS Update – B. Podsiadlo provided an update. Another round of the non-profit grant opportunity will occur in December, that will be Law Enforcement and Faith Based Organization focused. It is also time to make updates to the SPR and THIRA assessments.
    - MAPC Update- A. Reilly provided an update. There are two new positions that will be filled within MAPC’s Municipal Collaboration department in the coming months. MAPC will also be continuing the SWFT team monthly meetings to increase collaboration and information sharing between the different regions and projects.
  - **Budget Updates**
    - Council members were provided with copies of the FFY20 – FFY22 budget in the meeting packet.
      - FFY20 – Grant End Date: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023
      - FFY21 – Grant End Date: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024
      - FFY22 – Grant End Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024
      - FFY23 – The NERAC plan was approved, and the contracts are being signed.

MOTION put forth by C. Ryan.

      - Allow MAPC, with approval from the Chair, to transfer approved projects between FFY20, FFY21, and FFY22 grant years to spend down FFY20 funding by the grant end date.
      - Seconded by M. Collins.
        - In Favor: All
        - Opposed: None.
        - Abstain: None.
      - The motion passed.
- **NERAC Bylaws Review**



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- We received guidance from EOPSS, based on last month's conversation regarding the NERAC transit seat.
- Based on EOPSS guidance, it seems that NERAC is able to move forward with removing or replacing the official voting transit seat with another discipline, due to the lack of interest. NERAC will need to revisit a voting transit seat in the near future when there is interest/capacity but will need to add a transportation liaison (non-voting) for representation (similar to how we have a MEMA liaison) in the meantime.
- I have included a copy of the NERAC bylaws on page 18 of the meeting packet with the potential removal of the seat for review and discussion.
  - The bylaw amendments discussed:
    - Remove the (1) transit seat.
    - Add an additional Cybersecurity seat (total of 3).

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Propose revising the bylaws to remove the voting transit seat and adding an additional cybersecurity seat.
- Seconded by Chief B. Moriarty.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- **Open Council Seats**

- Public Schools
- Emergency Management
  - We have received candidates for the Public Schools and Emergency Management seats for the two council openings. We have submitted their information to EOPSS for their review and initial approval.
- Cybersecurity
  - The Council has received and heard from the two potential candidates for the one open cybersecurity seat.
    - *Dorinda Goodman- Director of Information Technology for the Town of Lexington.*
    - *Ryan Knowles- Director of Information Services for the City of Gloucester.*
  - It is now time for an open discussion and a vote.

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Add Ryan Knowles to the Council to fill the vacant Cybersecurity seat.
- Seconded by Chief N. Hovey.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- Emergency Medical Services
  - The Council has received two potential candidates for the one open EMS seat.
    - *Wes Russell attended last month and presented. He is the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for the Tyngsborough FD.*



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- *Eric Christensen is in attendance to present. He is now the NEEMs Executive Director.*

- It is now time for an open discussion and a vote.

MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- Add Eric Christensen to the Council to fill the vacant EMS seat.
  - Seconded by P. Cohen.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- Regional Transit Authority

- **Project Updates**

- NEMLEC Ballistic Helmets
  - We met with Chief Nix to discuss this project and am now awaiting information that needs to be added to the PJ before its submission.
- Merrimack Valley Camera System Expansion
  - MAPC continues to work through updating the specifications and have received approval on the PJ amendment to also include equipment installation/programming.
- NERAC Ambubus
  - The NERAC Ambubus disposal request has been approved by EOPSS. We let MeVa know they can now dispose of the Ambubus, following all applicable laws and procedures governing disposal of equipment.
- District 6 JHIRT Equipment
  - We are still waiting for the delivery of the remaining equipment. I have reached out to Atlantic Tactical for an updated ETA.
- FD-14 Tech Rescue Equipment
  - The PJ was approved by EOPSS, and we are working on the equipment procurement.
- Cybersecurity Projects
  - There is currently \$80,279.39 allocated in FFY21 H.04 Cyber Incident Response Plans, which must be spent on a cyber related project due to the minimum spend requirement.

- **North Shore IT Collaborative AARs and TTX Request**

- C. Cousens presented this request.

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Allocate \$40,400.00 from FFY21 H.04 Cyber Incident Response Plans to fund the North Shore IT Collaborative AARs and TTX.
- Seconded by Chief B. Moriarty.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.



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- **Committee/Working Group Updates**

- Training & Exercise

- NERAC School Safety Seminar

- The NERAC School Safety Seminar occurred on October 5th, there were 130 first responders, school personnel, and other stakeholders from NERAC's communities, as well as other state and regional leadership that attended the NERAC School Safety Seminar. Rosemary went through the registration sheets for the discipline breakdown, and of the 130 attendees, there were 60 first responders, 39 school staff, 7 municipal leaders, and 24 others. Participants represented 43 different NERAC municipalities.
- The seminar speakers included Lisa Hamp, who spoke of her experience as a Virginia Tech survivor and Retired Police Chief Tony Pustizzi, who discussed the Parkland tragedy from a law enforcement perspective. There were also speakers from within the NERAC region including Merrimac Police Chief Shears who presented the Uvalde After Action Report and Lt. Kevin Devoe from the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) School Threat Assessment and Response System (STARS) team who presented on threat assessments and the NEMLEC STARS program resources. Sal Venturelli from the Transportation Security Administration was also in attendance and discussed TSA school bus safety assessments. All speakers participated in an insightful Q&A session at the end of the seminar.

- The Committee would also like to officially add Mike Collins as a member.

MOTION put forth by Chief N. Hovey.

- Officially add Mike Collins as a T&E Committee member.
  - Seconded by Chief B. Moriarty.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- Interoperability/ Info Sharing

- The SCIP workshop occurred. There were 3 different workshops to discuss a roadmap for the next 3 years for interoperability.

- Regional Equipment Cache

- We are continuing to work through the Cache Gator project to spend down the unfrozen cache fee accounts.

- Evacuation/Sheltering

- No update.

- **Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates**

- Discipline Updates:

- Cybersecurity- There will be a briefing for state police in Maynard on November 30<sup>th</sup>, which will detail cyber incident experiences and offensive tactics.
- Hospitals- It is respiratory virus season, vaccinations are encouraged.
- Public Safety Communications- The TERT program was officially activated.



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- Public Schools- Safety teams should be considered in MCI planning. School staff will need to familiarize themselves with planning language.
- State Agency Liaison Updates
  - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
    - The EMPG was released, and the application is due at the end of December. The CERT meeting is on December 13<sup>th</sup>. NERO's law training can fall under EMPG funding, or equipment/supplies needed for ambulances.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
  - None.

MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by A. Alpert.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

**\*\*Next Meeting: December 14, 2023\*\***

## ATTENDEES - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chief John Fisher, Vice Chair: Bedford Police Department  
Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department  
Christopher Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center  
Dr. Scott Morrison: Tri Town School Union  
Chief Brian Moriarty: Lawrence Fire Department  
Paul Cohen: Town of Chelmsford  
Chief Tom Judge: Concord Fire Department  
Colby Cousens: Town of Danvers Information Technology  
Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department  
Allan Alpert: City of Melrose Emergency Management  
Mike Collins: Beverly DPW  
Chief John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department  
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department  
Bill Klag: North Shore Medical Center Emergency Preparedness

## ABSENT- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sheriff Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff  
Dave Ouellette: Dracut Public Health

## ATTENDEES – OTHER

Ben Podsiadlo: EOPSS  
Amy Reilly: MAPC  
Rosemary Volinski: MAPC

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- November 2023 Meeting Agenda
- September 2023 Meeting Minutes
- FFY20, FFY21, FFY22 Budget Updates



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- Suggested By-Law Revisions
- Candidate Resumes and Interview Questions
- November 2023 Project Status Updates
- North Shore IT Collaborative AARs and TTX Request