

City of Rutland Tropical Storm Irene Relief Committee
Final Report

May 9, 2012

To: Mayor Louras
City Treasurer Wilton
Rutland City Board of Aldermen
City Clerk Heck

CC: Committee Members

From: Sean Sargeant, Chair: City of Rutland Tropical Storm Irene Relief Committee

RE: Final Report and Allocations of the Committee

On January 17, 2012 the City Board of Aldermen (BOA) voted 10 yes to 0 no establish a Tropical Storm Irene Relief Committee (committee) charged with distributing \$16,652 in cash gifts made to the City for storm relief. The BOA vote staffed the committee with five members; a representative of the BOA (Sargeant); Mayor Louras; City Zoning Administrator Simonds; a representative of the Rutland Country Club (Mary Ann Levins); and a representative of Restoring Rutland (Jim Sabatano). The BOA gave little restriction on the use of the funds other than they must be distributed in the City to recover from damages directly related to Irene, and the committee was given an application form developed jointly between the BOA's Finance Committee and the Office of the City Treasurer.

While tens of groups and individuals donated to the fund, the greatest amounts came from the people of Ishidoriya (Hanamaki City), Japan, our sister city, and a through fund raiser held at the Rutland Country Club. I will pen letters of appreciation to these two groups and ask the BOA to sign them at a future meeting.

The City opened the application process on or about March 26, 2012, publicized in articles in the Rutland Herald, at three successive BOA meetings, and through two, four-hour, phone bank sessions held at BROCC specifically calling owners of affected property in Rutland City. The application process closed on April 30, 2012, at which point the committee discovered that the Rutland funds, being the least restricted, should be distributed as soon as possible as other, more restrictive aid, may not be accessed by City residents until these funds are exhausted. In total there were 28 applicants for aid totaling \$347,202, or 21 times the available funding.

To distribute these funds the committee held a public meeting on May 8, 2012; warned 7 days in advance on the City website, in postings in City Hall, in two Herald articles leading to the meeting and at the May 7, 2012 BOA meeting. No members of the public came, but the session was covered by the Rutland Herald and WCAX who have both produced stories covering the session.

The committee first decided on rules of its operation.

- Working on an overhead spreadsheet, we would examine different allocations and take one final vote on the whole thing, which would need to pass by a simple majority.

The committee then discussed and agreed to initial criteria for allocation.

- Fewer, but more substantial (\$), allocations
- Priority placed on owner-occupied properties
- Priority placed on those neighborhoods in the 500-year flood plain
- Priority placed on real property damage, less on personal property loss
- Priority placed on buildings and systems (electrical, heating and plumbing), less on landscaping and outbuildings

Using these priorities the list of 28 was initially cut to 14. The 14 individual applications were reviewed in detail. Allocation options were displayed, discussed and edited. A priority was placed on funding bills for which there was documentation in the form of invoices or receipts, and funding the entire bill so that the grant was for something tangible, like a boiler or an electrical box. After two hours of deliberation, a motion was made to accept a list of eight allocations, this passed the committee by a vote of 5 yes to 0 no.

These are the final allocations. The committee requests the Office of the Treasurer to contact these eight people to make arrangements for them submit a W9 and pick up their check.

Fund Balance \$ 16,652 Allocation Total \$ 16,652				
Owner's Name	Property Address	Damages Minus Assistance	Allocation from Fund	% of Total Funds Allocated
GILLAM, Charlotte & William	34 Cleveland Ave.	\$ 79,081.10	\$ 6,364.00	38%
CAULIN, Michael*	9 Earl St.	10,150.00	1,218.15	7%
DORMAN, James	36 Meadow St.	9,118.26	2,100.00	13%
MCGINNIS, William	22 Dorr Dr.	8,746.24	2,078.00	12%
FORGEY, Melissa	14 Earl St.	8,109.73	973.28	6%
MORRILL, Nicole & Sannon	142 Dorr Dr.	5,971.84	1,898.85	11%
WELLS, Paul	11 Earl St.	1,685.76	711.60	4%
FENSON, Eugene	35 Cleveland Ave.	1,307.99	1,307.99	8%

The committee, working with the Office of the Treasurer and the City Clerk, will also send 20 letters to the applicants who did not receive an allocation from the fund. This letter will include information on alternate sources of funding and assistance still available.

The committee expects the existing fund balance may be \$10 to \$15 more than that shown due to the accrual of interest over the past few weeks. A motion was made to take any remaining cash in the fund, after the allocations shown above (on May 9, 2012 the Treasurer calculated this amount at \$0.85), and donate it as cash to Restoring Rutland thus exhausting the fund balance to \$0.00 and closing the line item in the Rutland City Restricted Funds. This motion passed 5 yes to 0 no.

The committee expects that the sources of other, more restrictive, funding may need a letter from the Treasurer's office attesting to the distribution of all available funds and the closing of the account. We ask the Treasurer's Office to create such a letter and make it available to BROCC, who are coordinating local relief efforts.

As chair I would like to thank the committee for their time, effort and clarity of purpose, which made my role as committee chair easier.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean S. Sargeant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sean Sargeant

Chair: City of Rutland Tropical Storm Irene Relief Committee