

Rockbridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Minutes

Date: January 12, 2021

Volunteers Present: In-person at the Fire and Rescue Administration Building (FRAB): Brandy Flint, Greg Dreelin, Jutta Hopkins, and Marianna Higgins. Online: Alan Porter, Byron Porter, Kirk Rumburg, Mike Lewis, Misty Flint, and Steve Presti.

1. **Greg Dreelin, Team Leader, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.**
2. **No items were added to the agenda.**
3. **Election of Officers:**
 - a. Officers were elected by volunteers present at the meeting. Greg explained that consistent with FEMA recommendations the “Team Commander” will now be referred to as the “Team Leader”.
 - b. Election results are:
 - i. Team Leader: Brandy Flint
 - ii. Operations Chief: Greg Dreelin
 - iii. Administrative/Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins
4. **The March 2020 minutes were approved.**
5. **2020 Recap and 2021 Plans.** Brandy reported 2020 was a quiet year for our unit mainly due to COVID-19 precautions and no major incidents for which volunteers were needed.
 - a. The leadership team met with Nathan to discuss his priorities for the coming year. These remain the same as last year with emphasis on:
 - i. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) support.
 - ii. Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP).
 - b. For 2021, we plan to resume monthly volunteer meetings. Meetings will be held both online and in-person to ensure as many volunteers as possible can safely participate. We will start up some training, exercises, and/or presentations in the next few months. With COVID-19 remaining an issue we need to be flexible. Your patience and suggestions are appreciated.
6. **Training and Reports:**
 - a. The National CERT Association has developed a hybrid approach to new volunteer training that includes a standardized on-line training module followed by an in-person skills segment. This training is consistent with FEMA requirements. Information can be found at <https://nationalcert.org/certpdr/hybridcert>. We will be discussing how to use this approach in our unit especially as the pandemic continues to linger. Additional training resources can be found at https://community.fema.gov/story/FEMA-Releases-Updated-Community-Emergency-Response-Team-CERT-Basic-Training-Curriculum?lang=en_US.
 - b. Training for EOC support for substantial damage using CrisisTrack will be scheduled with VDEM.
 - c. FEMA has proposed CERT qualifications and training as part of the National Qualification System. Proposed qualifications for Volunteers, Section Chiefs and Team Leaders can be found at:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema-nqs_cert-volunteer_draft-job-title-position-qualifications.pdf.

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema-nqs_cert-section-chief_draft-job-title-position-qualifications.pdf.

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/fema-nqs_cert-team-leader_draft-job-title-position-qualifications.pdf.

We will discuss these qualifications and how they relate to our unit after they are finalized.

- d. Brandy has purchased additional supplies with grant funding we received last year. These include a generator, misting fans and other supplies for the rehab program.
- e. An impressive, large CERT logo has been attached to the side of Emergency Management's new response trailer. The trailer will be available to CERT as needed for rehab and other events.

7. Old Business

- a. Brandy reminded everyone to let her know if they need an ID.
- b. The CERT T-shirts are here. Please contact Brandy if you ordered and paid for one (or more).
- c. Operation Reach Out will resume. Brandy and others are contacting former members to see if they are interested in becoming active again. If you know anyone who is interested, please let her know.

8. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Update

- a. Steve has attended the quarterly LEPC meetings. The meetings have been held on-line and have focused mostly on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and community response.

9. New Business

- a. No new business was presented.

10. Upcoming events

- a. None scheduled at this time.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm

Administrative and Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021 at 17:30 @ Fire and Rescue Administration Building – 100 Baner Lane, Buena Vista, VA 24416