

Rockbridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Minutes

Date: May 11, 2021

Volunteers Present: Marianna Higgins, Jutta Hopkins, Alan Porter, Byron Porter, Greg Dreelin, Neil Robichaux

- 1. Greg Dreelin, Operations Chief, called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.**
- 2. Three items were added to the agenda.** (1) CERTCON training (2) Goshen Event (3) Animal Response Team
- 3. The April 13, 2021 minutes were approved with one correction.** Brenda Jackson was at the meeting, not Kathryn Brett. A motion was made, seconded and all present voted in favor to accept the amended minutes.
- 4. Training:**
 - a. We will include an exercise component to the Goshen Essential Responders Day event on May 22. This can include setting up the tent, generator, misters and other equipment. Nathan will check on getting a manikin in firefighting gear for us to use as a prop.
 - b. CERTCON 2021, a virtual conference sponsored by Fairfax CERT will be conducted May 18-23rd. Registration information can be found on the Fairfax CERT website or <http://certcon.org>.
- 5. Team and After-Action Reports:**
 - a. Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP). There were no requests for ERRP assistance in the past month. An inventory is being conducted and perishable items slated to be replaced after the Goshen event on May 22nd.
 - b. Emergency Operations Center Support: No requests for EOC assistance in the past month.
 - c. ARK (Animal Response) – As there is a limited role for this function (delivering shelter supplies in the event of a disaster) there is no need for a separate team. A motion was made, seconded and all present voted to eliminate this team. Requests for assistance will be handled as part of general CERT support when requested by Emergency Management.
 - d. SAR (Search and Rescue) – No report. We had a discussion regarding the status of this team as Search and Rescue activities are not conducted by our unit. Greg will talk with Brandy, Nathan and Christian about the role and functions of the team.
 - e. Communications – Alan has inspected and charged the 15 radios, so they are available if needed. Alan also reminded the group there will be a HAM radio event June 26-27. Certification testing will be available. Please call Alan for more information.
 - f. Pandemic Response Support. Notices of vaccine clinics are published by the health department. If someone wishes to volunteer, they can sign up at <https://signup.com/go/zBzRjJK>
- 6. Old Business:**
 - a. Citizen Corp registration of our CERT unit is in progress. We need this registration to be included in FEMA listings and services.
 - b. Organizational document updates. Documents will be revised when FEMA guidelines are finalized.
 - c. Volunteer Qualification Tracking. FEMA is expected to release the final requirements in June. In the meantime, if you take any of the proposed courses, please let Brandy or Jutta know so we can update your volunteer training record.
 - d. The CERT T-shirts are here. Most have been distributed. If you have paid but not picked yours up yet, please contact Brandy.
 - e. CERT Brochures. Greg will print out brochures to be available for the Goshen and other events.
 - f. We have not yet heard about the request to a local bank for gift cards to be used for ERRP

responses (e.g. fresh foods, beverages).

7. New Business:

- a.** Recommendations for training
 - i. Firefighter to talk about rehab needs and how we can be most effective/helpful
 - ii. Dominion or BARC to provide electrical safety training
 - iii. Overview of FEMA CERT volunteer qualifications and training
- b.** Discuss “You are the Help” training for the public at a future meeting.

8. Upcoming events:

- a.** Ongoing assistance in non-medical roles at local COVID-19 clinics.
- b.** Essential Responder Day in Goshen on May 22, 2012. We will have an exhibit focusing on preparedness and ERRP.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm

Administrative and Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins

Next Meeting: June 8, 2021 at 17:30 @ Fire and Rescue Administration Building – 100 Baner Lane, Buena Vista, VA 24416.