

# Rockbridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Minutes

**Date:** June 8, 2021

**Volunteers Present:** Marianna Higgins, Jutta Hopkins, Alan Porter, Kathryn Brett

1. **Jutta Hopkins, Administration//Finance Chief, called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.**
2. **No items were added to the agenda.**
3. **The April 13, 2021 minutes were approved with no changes.** A motion was made, seconded and all present voted in favor to accept the minutes.
4. **Nominations for Election of Officers.** Due to the small number of attendees the nominations were deferred until July.
5. **Training:**
  - a. We discussed hurricane threats as the official hurricane season began June 1. Our main threats are related to rain and flooding. The Virginia Hurricane guide was shared with attendees. Additional copies are available upon request.
  - b. Four volunteers participated in the Goshen Essential Responders Day event on May 22. We displayed a sample 72-hour preparedness kit and an emergency provider rehab set-up. We set up the tent and tested the new generator and misters. The cool mist was a hit with kids attending the event. Thank you to Nathan and his staff for providing a manikin and transporting our gear. A picture of our exhibit was included in the Lexington News Gazette article about the event. Lessons learned from the exercise included:
    - i. We were able to set up the tent and equipment without difficulties.
    - ii. The new cots are not durable and will not support an adult sitting on the end of the cot.
    - iii. The generator worked well and was fairly quiet.
    - iv. The mister worked well but we need to keep in mind that we need potable water. It takes about 30 gallons to fill the container.
    - v. We need to get a 'pigtail' connector so we can plug more than one appliance into the generator.
6. **Team and After-Action Reports:**
  - a. Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP). There were no requests for ERRP assistance in the past month. Perishable items in the food bin have been replaced. We discussed the need for a process to purchase CERT supplies (e.g. food during responses or replacement of perishable stored items). One suggestion was to have some pre-paid debit cards. Otherwise, there needs to be a reimbursement process when volunteers buy approved supplies with personal funds.
  - b. Emergency Operations Center Support: No requests for EOC assistance in the past month.
  - c. Communications: Alan reminded the group there will be a HAM radio event June 26-27. Certification testing will be available. Please call Alan for more information.
  - d. 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>
7. **Old Business:**
  - a. Citizen Corp registration of our CERT unit is still in process. The website still lists the Main Street address. Jutta will follow up to see when we can expect to be recertified.
  - b. Volunteer Qualification Tracking. FEMA is expected to release the final requirements July 13. We will provide information regarding the requirements at the August meeting.
  - c. CERT Brochures. Greg printed out brochures and made them available for the Goshen event.
  - d. We have not heard about the request to a local bank for gift cards to be used for ERRP responses.

**8. New Business:**

- a. We will discuss recommendations for training at the July meeting.

**9. Upcoming events:**

- a. Ongoing assistance in non-medical roles at local COVID-19 clinics.
- b. National Night Out – August 3<sup>rd</sup>
- c. Community Festival – August 28<sup>th</sup>

**10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm**

**Administrative and Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins**

Next Meeting: July 13, 2021 at 17:30 @ Fire and Rescue Administration Building – 100 Baner Lane, Buena Vista, VA 24416.