

# Rockbridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Minutes

**Date:** July 13, 2021

**Volunteers Present:** In Person: Alan Porter, Brandy Flint, Dean Kershaw, Greg Dreelin, Jutta Hopkins, Marianna Higgins, Mike Lewis, Randy Harris. Online: Byron Porter

- 1. Brandy Flint, Team Leader, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.**
- 2. Training:       Hyperthermia Prevention and Treatment  
                          Thomas Andrews, Rockbridge Fire/Rescue Training Lieutenant**

Thomas provided an interesting and timely presentation on hyperthermia and how CERT volunteers can recognize the risks and stages of hyperthermia, understand the body's physiological responses to high temperatures and the importance of initiating prompt cooling actions. Recommended actions to be taken (or avoided) by immediate responders were discussed. Thank you, Thomas, for sharing your expertise and time.

- 3. One item was added to the agenda.** Mike Lewis will provide an update regarding his Miami/Dade County CERT training.
- 4. The June 8, 2021, minutes were approved with no changes.** A motion was made, seconded and all present voted in favor to accept the minutes.
- 5. Election of Officers.** Nominations for officers were made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote of members present at the meeting. Officers for FY2022 will be:
  - Brandy Flint               President/Team Leader
  - Greg Dreelin               Vice President/Operations Chief
  - Jutta Hopkins             Secretary/Admin-Finance Chief
- 6. Team and After-Action Reports:**
  - Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP). No requests for ERRP assistance in the past month. (However, we did receive a request for ERRP at the sawmill fire the day after our meeting. The After-Action Report will be discussed at next month's meeting).
  - Emergency Operations Center Support: No requests for EOC assistance in the past month.
  - Communications: Alan provided an update for the successful HAM radio event that was held June 26-27. He said 10 people participating in the field day made over 100 contacts in several countries. Please call Alan if you are interested in participating in this group.
  - Pandemic Response Support. Large public vaccination sites are slowing down, and CERT assistance is decreasing. We will continue to work with EM and assist if needed.
  - Search and Rescue (SAR): Dean reported VMI SAR pretty much shut down during the pandemic. We discussed the VMI relationship with the CERT team and decided Dean would liaison with VMI Emergency Management (Col Williams) but they will not be an official part of our CERT unit. Any cadets wishing to be SAR volunteers will go through BRMRG. Dean has 10 CERT bags he will return to us.
- 7. Old Business:**
  - Citizen Corp registration of our CERT unit is still in process. The website still lists the Main Street address. Jutta has contacted FEMA about this but has not heard back yet.
  - Volunteer Qualification Tracking. FEMA did not release the final requirements today. National CERT Association will follow up in early August and we will provide an update at the August meeting.

- c. We have not yet heard about the request to a local bank for gift cards to be used for ERRP responses. Brandy reported that we are not able to use county funds for pre-paid cards. Mike recommended we check with Walmart and Sheetz regarding donations of products rather than funds. Brandy reported McDonalds has offered to provide free coffee for ERRP responses.

**8. New Business:**

- a. Suggestions for FY2022 training included:
  - i. Basic CERT training (consider hybrid online and in-person).
  - ii. CPR updates (Brandy will schedule with an instructor)
  - iii. Dominion Power on safety around power lines (Brandy will check with Nathan)
- b. Mike reported on his training with the Miami/Dade CERT. He shared some pictures of their impressive training facilities. He commented he was very appreciative of the communications and updates he received from us while he was in Florida and is happy to be back for the summer.

**9. Upcoming events:**

- a. National Night Out – August 3<sup>rd</sup>
- b. Community Festival – August 28<sup>th</sup>
- c. Rockbridge County Fair – August 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

**10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm**

**Administrative and Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins**

Next Meeting: August 10, 2021 at 17:30 @ Fire and Rescue Administration Building – 100 Baner Lane, Buena Vista, VA 24416.