

# Rockbridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Minutes

**Date:** August 10, 2021

**Volunteers Present:** In Person: Alan Porter, Brandy Flint, Dean Kershaw, Greg Dreelin, Jutta Hopkins, Kathy Larlee, Kirk Rumburg, Mike Lewis. Phone: Brenda Jackson, Shana Pooley, Misty Flint

1. **Brandy Flint, Team Leader, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.**
2. **One item was added to the agenda.** Power outage.
3. **The July 13, 2021, minutes were approved with no changes.** A motion was made, seconded and all present voted in favor to accept the minutes.
4. **Training: Planning for August 28<sup>th</sup> Community Festival and Basic CERT Training**
  - a. Brandy led a planning discussion for the upcoming Community Festival exhibit. She is coordinating with Trent Roberts to set up our exhibit with the Lexington Fire Department. We will feature our Emergency Responder Rehabilitation Program (ERRP). Kathy suggested we also do some interactive demonstrations such as splinting or other first aid. We will pilot sales of 72-hour kits. Greg will send Jutta a listing of the current kit to prepare 2 kits for sale. Greg will print out additional CERT flyers to promote our unit and the upcoming basic training classes. Brandy will send out a volunteer sign-up sheet to cover the shifts.
  - b. Basic CERT classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays the last two weeks of October and the first two weeks of November. Jutta will check with Cortney to see if the FRAB conference room is available. Jutta will draft a flyer to promote the classes at the Community Festival and selected public sites. Brandy will post the information on the county website and social media.
5. **Team and After-Action Reports:**
  - a. Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP). After Action Report: Nathan requested ERRP for responders fighting a sawmill fire on the north side of the county. Brandy reported Dean, Jutta and she responded to the site, Alan helped load supplies (before he went to work) and Mike was available, if needed. The fire was contained soon after we arrived so additional volunteers were not called. If volunteers would like to be called for *initial responses, including night-time or early hours*, please let Brandy know.

Brandy reported McDonalds and Sheetz no longer prepare coffee in bulk containers. However, Seth Humphrey, the Highway 60 McDonald's manager, offered to provide coffee and biscuits without charge for emergencies. We need to call in advance so they can prepare the coffee. Brandy will leave instructions and the McDonalds phone number with the ERRP supplies. Brandy will also purchase a single serve Keurig type coffee maker that will be kept with our response supplies.
  - b. Emergency Operations Center Support: No requests for EOC assistance in the past month.
  - c. Communications: No report.
  - d. Community Events: National Night Out went well and we had good attendance at our exhibit. Ten volunteers staffed the exhibit and mingled with vendors and attendees. Our black and green shirts made volunteers very visible so our presence was noted. Brandy reported the disaster coloring books were a big hit with kids and hopefully they will learn more about preparedness as

they color. We will also distribute these at the Community Festival.

**6. Old Business:**

- a. FEMA/Citizen Corp registration of our CERT unit is still in process. Jutta is waiting for a response from a FEMA contact who is checking into the status of the application.
- b. FEMA released the CERT Volunteer Qualifications this morning. FEMA prepared these qualifications for deployable volunteers. Brandy will send a copy to current volunteers via email. We need to discuss these qualifications and how they will be used in our unit. The National CERT Association and FEMA Region II are planning a webinar to discuss the qualifications and how FEMA envisions their use.
- c. We have not heard about the request to a local bank for gift cards to be used for ERRP responses. Brandy submitted a grant proposal to the Community Foundation for \$500.

**7. New Business:**

- a. Due to a power outage in Glasgow, Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge Station and Arnold's Valley, Dominion Power reported 2800 people are without power. Brandy reported Nathan has asked for help answering phone calls during the evening and tonight. Brandy and Greg volunteered to have calls transferred to them.
- b. Kathy Laree mentioned the Feed the Need Foundation is having a toy drive December 13-17<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for volunteers and donations. Call Kathy or [www.feedtheneedfoundation.org](http://www.feedtheneedfoundation.org) for more information.
- c. We agreed to purchase white polo shirts for volunteers who are actively involved in unit activities. One polo shirt per volunteer will be provided to volunteers who participated in the 2021 National Night Out event. Volunteers who participate in future events will be provided with a polo shirt at the time (as allowed by the budget).

**8. Upcoming events:**

- a. Community Festival – August 28<sup>th</sup>
- b. Rockbridge County Fair – August 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. We are not planning an exhibit but if anyone is interested in volunteering, they can call Steve Hart for more information.

**9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm**

**Administrative and Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins**

Next Meeting: September 14, 2021 at 17:30 @ Fire and Rescue Administration Building – 100 Baner Lane, Buena Vista, VA 24416.