

TE CERT MINUTES

January 20, 2021

Attendance: Laura Freese, Sharon Denson, Mary Wadman, Steve Watkins, Tom Briggle, Charlie Rizzo, Bruce Smith, David Bliss, John White, Dan Smith, Mary Lou Smith

Meeting called to order by Laura Freese at 10:00 am.

The pledge to the flag was followed by the Secretary's report and Treasurer's report which were both approved by the membership.

David reported on the trailer work. They are working on the plywood pieces now. The plywood has been moved to the trailer for storage due to some issues with the woodshop.

HAM Radio classes: Dan reported that the next exam by the County is scheduled for February 20th. He will schedule classes immediately before that date so additional people can get certified. He will communicate with persons want to take his classes as soon as the meeting room has been secured. Laura will book the room. Dan also said if there are persons who have passed the Technician exam and want to take the General exam, he will schedule some advanced classes.

Tom said he would donate a computer for CERT ham radio operators. He will upload any programs needed and will store the computer at his home. He will take it to the trailer for use in an emergency. Thanks, Tom.

Grants: Tom reported that he had no luck so far.

Dan reported that he has reviewed the website, techsoup.org, which was recommended by someone. It is an organization that charges a fee and writes the grants. They have resources that we do not have. Dan has registered us on the site. We need to think of the things we want to purchase prior to asking for money. We should continue to ask local businesses for small amounts of money. Many of them (banks, Walmart, etc.) have policies that dictate donating to local organizations that are non-profit.

We held an election of officers. John moved and Steve seconded the motion to keep the same slate of officers. Current officers were polled to see if they wanted to resign and have someone else fill the position. All reported that they would accept another term. It was unanimously approved.

Train the Trainer class: Sharon reported that she and Laura are taking the class now and we will be able to do in-house training of future applicants. Sharon reported that the County is looking at putting some parts of the program online. There is an online class now that can be accessed by googling CERT317. Sharon reposted that since we had such a good organizational structure under the leadership of Ken, Bud, and Frank, that we are in really good shape in complying with regulations.

Putting on the classes costs the County \$3,000.00. By training volunteer trainers, the entire system benefits. Sharon and Laura can go to other communities wanting to start a CERT program and train their prospective members.

Sharon and Laura will have the task, upon completion of their own classes, to put together the materials and personnel to hold the training classes that they will be teaching. Grant money may be necessary to fund this.

Sharon went over some things that were stressed in the training. CERT will only protect members, liability wise, if they are ONLY performing tasks that they have been trained to do by CERT. She gave an example of the Doctor. If the Doctor is wearing CERT identification (vest, badge), the Doctor cannot go beyond CERT authorized tasks. If the Doctor wants to do more, he/she needs to take off the CERT ID. CERT does not even authorize performing CPR now. Members are expected to do things for the most good to the most people. She also said they stressed that members cannot wear open-toed shoes in an emergency situation for their own safety.

Training Videos: Laura reported that she can now access the short training videos on the internet that we have used at meetings in the past. Sharon reported that she has the Manatee County training discs.

Bylaws Changes addressing Associate Membership that were sent to members prior to this meeting: Dan moved and Sharon seconded the motion to adopt the changes as written. Motion passed.

Sharon spoke further about a "Hybrid Cass" being developed with part of the class being offered online and the "hands-on" part being taught live. She spoke of the CERT317 (basic) class. She spoke of FEMA forms about a Command Post (in our case, the trailer). She spoke of the "Incident Command System" activated by a large event, which designates a "Team Leader" to speak for the group and run the operation. She cautioned that team members should refer all requests for comment (by the media) to the team leader, unless specific permission has been given. A small group of members, probably the officers need to meet to decide what we need, paper-wise, to function in an emergency. FEMA has developed the forms. We just need to fill in the blanks. This probably won't happen before March.

Sharon and Laura are both signed up for a CERT Refresher class in February.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Mary Lou Smith

Secretary