

TE CERT MINUTES

June 16, 2021

Attendance: Laura Freese, Sharon Denson, Steve Watkins, Tom Briggie, David Bliss, , Dan Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Mary Wadman, Cathy Figgioni, Charlie Rizzo, Mickey (Marianne) Mattson, Don Mattson, Jim Brunett, Judy Brunett, John Biberio. Guests: Dan Tuttle and Janet Brown (TE Neighborhood Watch), Linda Briggie (TE Fire Dept.)

Meeting called to order by Laura Freese at 10:04 am, and began with a pledge to the flag.

Duane Trotter (TE Board of Trustees) thanked members for volunteering to help with the pet vaccination project which will be held on Saturday, June 22. He gave more details about what volunteers could expect to do. It will be 8:30-12:00 for volunteers. We have 8 volunteers who will split the time.

A graduation ceremony was held to welcome our 7 new CERT members (Tom, Cathy, Charlie, Mickey, Donald, Jim, and Judy). They were presented certificates and badges. Backpacks (were distributed at the end of the meeting). Jim and Judy donated emergency blankets for the backpacks. Sharon made a cake for meeting attendees to help celebrate.

Secretary's report and Treasurer's report (\$1779.18) which had been sent to members previously, were both approved by the membership. Our current treasurer is experiencing some medical issues which prevent him from continuing as treasurer at this time. Nominees were Tom Briggie and Dan Smith. Dan Smith was elected, noting his length of time being a member and his responsibility for the other paperwork to maintain our non-profit status. Tom has been busy with maintaining the website and will add responsibilities with the HAM radios.

Mary Lou made a motion and Sharon seconded, to have two members authorized to sign checks, the treasurer (currently Dan Smith) and the Chairman (currently Laura Freese). Motion passed.

David reported on the trailer work. The wheel covers/tables have been completed. The roof insulation had not been completed. The plan is to devote one side of the trailer to the HAM radio operators. David made a portable carrier to put our CERT emblem on for golf carts.

HAM Radio classes: Dan will organize a licensing class for the current technician level to elevate the technician license to the next level (general) license in order to be able to transmit long distances to our snowbirds. He will also be available to have another class in the fall for the technician licensure if there is interest. Those classes will be open to anyone, including from other areas, free of charge, space permitting. The County licensure exam takes place monthly on the 3rd Saturday. Classes will be scheduled the week prior to the test.

HAM Equipment: Dan has purchased the equipment authorized at the last meeting, to enable us to communicate via computer to EOC during a disaster. The cost came in below the authorized amount of \$300.00. The total was \$279.65 for the software, computer to radio connection, new mic for the radio, and an antenna. Dan explained the need and process for the computer communication in a disaster. He also reported on attending (via computer) the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency System) mock disaster drill. We need to have more interface with Manatee County and ARES to make sure we have adequate HAM/computer transmission facilities in the event of a disaster. EOC will be responsible for dispatching all emergency equipment during a disaster. It is imperative that we be able to communicate with them.

Dan gave thumb drives to our current operators that contained the 90 page manual containing the necessary information/FCC requirements for operation of the HAM Radios, and encouraged all operators to familiarize themselves with it.

Sharon reported that In the event of a major disaster, cell phones will probably not work, and the 911 system will be overwhelmed. We have 17 ambulances for all of Manatee County.

Laura has a set of two way radios if any members need them.

Sharon reported on the Manatee County Coalition. They are in the process of restructuring. She will report next month on the progress. She will urge the coalition to support the Hybrid CERT classes for Manatee County. Sarasota County is operating them now. They combine online classes and hands on skills training, which cuts down on classroom attendance for the entire training (24 hours).

CERT Basic Training Class. Since Sharon and Laura are now trained as trainers, another class will be scheduled in the fall. It will also be open to anyone, space permitting.

Laura reported that materials are being handed out at the post office. She encouraged members to take turns sitting there. It will be casual rather than scheduled times. It is a good time to see your neighbors.

On Tuesday, June 22, members will be working on updating our emergency plan. Neighborhood Watch was invited to send one or two people to become familiar with our plan and to make suggestions of how Neighborhood Watch members could interface with us in an emergency.

Laura announced classes for residents for next year to put on calendars: Stop the Bleed, Wednesday, January 19, 2022; Active Shooter, Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Search and Rescue, Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Laura announced returning breakfast dates will be the third Monday of December, January, February, and March. Numbers of tickets will be limited due to the fresh and homemade items being served.

Building renovations may affect the meeting place for the next meeting. Email will be sent out if we need to move.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15. (Motion by Steve, second by Jim).

After the meeting backpacks were passed out and a group photo was taken of the new members wearing their CERT attire (contained in the backpacks).

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Lou Smith

TE CERT Secretary