

CERT Minutes

October 18, 2023

Attendance: Jim Brunett, Donald and Mickey Mattson, Barry Campbell, Charlie Rizzo, Gary Militello, Sherrill Wise, Sharon Denson, Laura Freese, Dan and Mary Lou Smith, Tom Briggie

Meeting called to order by Laura Freese at 10:00 AM

Pledge to the flag.

Minutes from 9/20/2023 accepted with the correction that the meeting began at 10:10 AM.

Financial: We have \$2,757.34 in our checking acct.

Old Business:

CERT Basic Training classes have been scheduled for Nov 7th, Nov. 8th, Nov 13th, Nov 15th, and Nov 16th, from 9:30 to 3:00, and Nov 18th from 9:30-5:00. Sessions will not last as long as written, but that is the time we have the room reserved for. Applicants will be sent specifics prior to the class. There are only 5 signed up at the moment. If more don't sign up, the classes will be postponed to a later date.

CERT members who live in TE are needed in each class. It is a great review opportunity. Let Sharon know your availability.

Future CERT Basic Training classes may be scheduled in Bayshore Gardens due to the difficulty scheduling the facility in TE. Most applicants now are not TE residents these days, so changing the location will not be a problem for students.

Sharon gave an update on the CERT Coalition. They are working on communication issues with the HAM radios. Tom is working with Steve Parks. It will be addressed in more detail in our training classes. Both Steve Parks and Tom will speak to the students the last day of class.

Dan has scheduled HAM licensure classes for Dec.4th, 7th, 11th and 14th. There will be an optional class on the 15th if necessary. The Manatee County licensure exam will be Dec 16th. The exam is offered on the third Saturday of every other month. There is now a charge of \$15.00 to take the exam and will be another fee for the license.

The dates for the 2024 CERT breakfasts will be Jan 8, Feb 12, March 11, and April 8th. EOC, Cedar Hammock Fire Dept., and TE employees will be our guests. Ticket prices will remain the same with single tickets costing \$10.00 and a packet of four tickets for \$35.00. We will have available 125 tickets to sell to the public, the same as last year. We will have popsicle sticks as cinnamon roll tickets.

Trailer Decal Update: Dan will check the trailer and find out where the decals are.

Volunteer hours have been given to Tom for our Cedar Hammock Open House. He reports them to Manatee County monthly. In an emergency situation, Manatee County gets FEMA funds for our hours, which help to buy our backpacks for new CERT members.

New Business:

Tom presented a hand-out with information on purchasing emergency batteries for our radios (stand-by UPS system) The cost is \$54.00 Motion carried. Barry also said he had one to donate so we will have two. There was a discussion that CERT had already approved money for emergency lighting. Laura recommended some lamps that she had seen. She will buy two lamps.

Supplies: Laura brought some donated first aid supplies for backpacks as well as pocket emergency cards and new resident forms. Mary Lou brought the scissors and tourniquets for distribution, that had been previously purchased by CERT.

Laura will look into getting CERT a TE bulletin board for our announcements/information.

Sharon suggested purchasing a refrigerator to put in the command center or somewhere else at TE, to help with our breakfast supplies and to be available in an emergency situation. Several members volunteered to look into the possibility with their various connections to TE employees and the board. It was noted that the Yacht Club had a refrigerator and there is also a refrigerator in another room in the activity center.

Tom gave a radio update. During the last hurricane evacuation, the command center (Pelican) room was locked and he had no access. This has been straightened out and will not happen again. One TE trustee will be available to let us into the room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Mary Lou Smith CERT Secretary