#

# Greater Upper Marlboro CERT

# Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2017

1. Call to order

Wanda Leonard, president, called to order the regular monthly meeting of the Greater Upper Marlboro CERT at 9:11 a.m. on November 11, 2017 at the Dutch Village Farmers Market, 5030 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland (in the meeting room), due to construction at the Town Hall.

1. Roll call

Alonzo Joy conducted a roll call after a moment of silence for all first responders and military veterans. The following board members were present: Wanda Leonard (president) and Alonzo Joy (secretary). Not Present: Leona Jenkins (vice president).

Members and visitors were acknowledged; there were three visitors. Including the board members, there were nine members present.

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the October 14, 2017 meeting were distributed and read. Discussions resulted in one correction (moved Paula Porter’s name to member). Motion made to accept the minutes as presented with correction; seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

1. Old Business
* Zello App updates provided by Wanda Leonard, Dedra Frazier and Donna Baugus. Dedra, our safety officer, spoke briefly about safety and the importance of the “buddy system” during training, activities and emergency callouts. She explained the value of using the Zello App during these events. Alonzo Joy will send to the team the updated list of members names to be included in our Zello group connection.
1. New Business
* Do1Thing – November’s focus – Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving home in a disaster. (It was further explained how the 12 small steps that include brief videos cover the entire year. Members encouraged to participate.)
* Deputy Clerk for the Town of Upper Marlboro reported that the Town Hall should be ready for use in December 2017.
* Getting back to training; members asked to think about training desires and provide input.
* Paula Porter would like for the team to provide disaster preparedness training to her Marlboro Meadows community next year. They also have a 501 (c) (3). She will help coordinate.
* Suggestion made to contacting area stores for permission to setup a table for distribution of preparedness information. Many thought that was a good idea. Discussions about having information about our organization placed on a letterhead to present to management of these different stores.
* Discussions about the value of having a 501 (c) (3) designation and how we might pursue it. Dwight Jones has a contact person whom could assist us in this effort; he will share with Wanda. Dedra Frazier spoke about possible future partnership with NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives), but will need to have a 501 (c) (3) to reap benefits from that partnership. Ray Butler spoke about Clinton CERT being the only CERT in the County with a 501 (c) (3). He spoke about its value and offered to assist us with obtaining a similar designation. Wanda proposed using some of the funding received from the Town of Upper Marlboro to pursue this status.
* Discussion about moving forward with our CERT pamphlet. Amelia and Wanda will finalize the pamphlet. Ray Butler provided examples of Clinton CERT’s (District V) pamphlet.
* Next pond cleanup dates are in 2018 – Our commitment was for two cleanups per year. Dates suggested were March or April and in October.
* Question raised about having students from the local high schools participate with the pond cleanup for their volunteer hours. Since we have a current vacancy in our Community Outreach board position, Wanda will take on that task of brokering a conversation with administrators of Wise and Fredrick Douglas High Schools.
1. Training Topic – 20 minutes
* Get Tech Ready – Wanda lead the discussion of downloading the app from FEMA/MEMA/PG OEM to ensure we are empowered with timely information and notifications. It was further suggested that if someone works in DC, they might find it beneficial to download DC HSEMA app. “The more you know and have, the better ready you will be.”
* Need to do more research on GEO tagging. Ray Butler will help obtain additional information, since it is being used by Clinton CERT.
* Show and Tell - Wanda showed the team several new, light weight, inexpensive emergency preparedness items she recently found in local stores.
* Team exercise – During our December 2017 meeting, each team member is expected to bring with them a one gallon Ziploc bag of 72-hours’ worth of emergency foods. Wanda showed her bag as possible ideas for what can be used. Alonzo Joy will send an email reminder to the team.

Members in Attendance Visitors

Paula Porter Dwight Jones

Donna Baugua Ray Butler

Amelia Harris Jane Washington

Keith Long

Evelyn Rhodes

Patty McLaughlin

Dedra Frazier

Wanda Leonard

Alonzo Joy

**Next Meetings**

December 9, 2017 and January 13, 2018

1. Adjournment

Wanda Leonard, president, adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alonzo Joy, Secretary

Minutes approved by: Wanda Leonard, President