

Notes – Aquinnah CERT meeting 3/3/22

Attending: Morgan Hodgson, Bill Lake, Carla Cuch, Beckie Finn, Forrest Filler, Chris Manning, Cert Cerullo, Gabbi Camilleri

CERT shelter volunteer recruitment: This event, held February 19, was successful; we have several new volunteers ready to participate in manning the shelters when the CERT team needs to activate it. **Gabbi** will circulate the list of additional volunteers, which Carla provided to her from the sign-in sheets. With these additions, **Morgan** will prepare a revised master list of volunteers with contact information. Forrest also reported that there was additional volunteer interest in communications, and he will follow up.

Beckie and Forrest reported on other training opportunities offered under the auspices of Dukes County which are available to CERT volunteers. Forrest emphasized the value of refresher courses to keep skills sharp. The training schedule is as follows:

Class #1 – Introduction to Emergency Management Volunteerism

- Virtual: Thursday, March 3, 2022 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- Practical: Saturday, March 26, 2022 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Class #2 - Ways to Prepare

- Virtual: Thursday, April 7, 2022 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- Practical: TBD

Class #3 - Ways to Volunteer

- Virtual: Thursday, May 5, 2022 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- Practical: TBD

There will be a make up session for the March 3 program, according to Forrest. These sessions may be of particular interest to our new shelter volunteers. **Forrest:** can you follow up and let us know what the “Practical” sessions will focus on, and, assuming they are in person sessions, where they will take place?

Note: The virtual training sessions are scheduled on the same evening as future Aquinnah CERT meetings. Please let Morgan know if you would like to start the monthly CERT meetings 30 minutes earlier to allow participation in the training sessions.

Beckie reported that a “meet and greet” session is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, at the Tribal Community Center with the new senior Red Cross staff person, who will be on the island to learn about the resources at the Center and meet relevant personnel. All CERT members are invited to attend this session. **Beckie** will circulate details.

Following up on an item from an earlier CERT team meeting, Forrest reported that after discussion with Noli they have agreed that it is not feasible to pursue a grant for portable generators for Aquinnah residents in need of power for electrified equipment due to issues of cost, fuel, and safety; in addition, the town does not have sufficient resources to manage such a program. One piece of missing information is whether those who need power for electrified medical equipment already have a solution in place (e.g. generator; neighbor who has back up power source). We should follow up with those individuals. **Gabbi** or **Kathie** – can one of you do this?

Gabbi raised the lack of an active representative from the Fire Department at CERT team meetings. **Forrest** will reach out to Simon Bollin about our interest in more interaction with his department. We want to be sure that as a team of volunteers that we are as supportive as possible in emergency situations and know what may and may not be helpful. **Gabbi** will also check in with Randhi to be sure he is up to date on recent CERT activities.

We discussed updating the list of individuals for contact in emergencies, since the current list combines two distinct groups - those who may want to be contacted for help and those who want to be contacted to provide help. **Morgan** will prepare an updated list after CERT volunteers send their annotated lists to her indicating which individuals fall in which category.

The next CERT team meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, April 7, at 5:30 pm.