

Landfall CERT  
Board of Director's Meeting  
Meeting #107  
October 2, 2018

The board meeting was called to order by President Mitchell at 1:00 PM in the COA board room. Board members present were Bob Mitchell, Peter Smoot, Michelle Schwieters, Tammy Darazsdi, Joel Sanders, Jerry Hurwitz and Skip Flynn. Also attending were CERT members John Gibson, Ed Kranski and Zach Piech who were invited to contribute to the discussion on hurricane Florence.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without comment or change.

Treasurer Schwieters provided documents relating to the financial condition of the organization. There were minimal expenditures and income during August and September and at the end of September CERT had \$10,989.95 in our primary bank account. This figure is down considerably from the August amount because we put \$4,000 in an interest-bearing money market account as a reserve fund. This diversion of funds was approved at the last meeting.

Among recent financial activity was the purchase of tourniquets and safety vests. The tourniquets will be added to our safety equipment inventory, but the vests were given to COA maintenance employees for use during hurricane Florence. The board agreed to consider this disbursement of equipment as a donation and not seek reimbursement from the COA.

Just a few weeks before this meeting, Landfall experienced major destruction from hurricane Florence with the loss of some 3,000 trees and flooding. Eleven CERT members stayed in Landfall during the event and were prepared to assist our community and the COA as necessary or requested. President Mitchell invited all those who remained during the storm to attend the meeting and discuss the good and bad of our involvement and how we might do better during a future storm.

On the positive side, before the storm we met with the COA staff and Landfall security to learn about their preparation and discussed how we might contribute during the storm and recovery. We received COA radios to help with

communication and took “go bags” of medical supplies to supplement our existing equipment or to give to other volunteers.

During the storm we attempted to establish periodic communication contact among our members, but found the provided radios to be of little use as static reduced the ability to understand each other. There was also a lack of organizational control during our attempts to communicate which discouraged people from even trying. New radios are needed. The COA has acknowledged this need.

Zach Piech experienced flooding at and around his residence and, in spite of preparation, acknowledged he was not really ready. Zach indicated that he is acquiring waders, a pump and water dams for his door to have on hand for the future.

Ed Kranski, who has come to Landfall from hurricane prone Florida and has experience as a first responder, felt it is very important that we have better information on who is staying and who is leaving during a hurricane event. Following a significant storm we need to focus rescue efforts at homes known to be occupied rather than those whose residents have relocated.

John Gibson felt that it would be good if all Landfall residents were aware of the location of CERT members who have radios so they could have access to this communications network for emergency situations. It would require the COA to coordinate this information.

President Mitchell stated that during the event he had learned several things important to mitigating damage during a hurricane. Specifically, he felt that there were procedures Landfall residents should be aware of during their hurricane preparation.

Among his tips were:

- Close interior doors in order to isolate damage in the event of intrusion.
- Shut off refrigerator ice makers to avoid flooding.
- Obtain lanterns with USB ports.
- Use a solution of hydrogen peroxide and vinegar to contend with mold.
- Utilize automotive battery packs to charge phones and other equipment.

President Mitchell suggested that he would prepare an article with the above and other suggestions to put in local periodicals so that Landfall residents would benefit from the information.

As always, some CERT members are always in need of CPR and first aid recertification. Terry Reilly looked into the best way to accomplish these needs. Our provider has agreed to teach a class of 3.5 hours to cover both topics. CERT would subsidize our members expenses. In order to qualify for this combination class one's certification would have to be within months of expiration.

We also have regular classes scheduled for November 1 and 7 for individuals seeking certification. We are hoping to identify new people for these classes. The question to the board was do we want to use the shorter combined classes or the existing separate classes. It was noted that the single classes attended by other that CERT members provide recruiting opportunities for the organization.

The board felt that it would be best to continue the full class option and also pursue the shortened combination class opportunity for current CERT members. Terry Reilly will look into these options further.

Our organization has studied using the Zello application as a communication platform for our group. There were concerns that the application would not work without wifi, but Joel Sanders insured the board that this was not true and wifi is not necessary. The board agreed that Zello appears to be a good option for CERT, but we need to work harder to get our members enrolled in the system.

Our meeting agenda included a topic to discuss the possible use of CERT funds during this post hurricane period. The board decided to table this topic until a future meeting after things have settled down. The community and COA are still heavily involved in hurricane recovery efforts and we can look at this subject when needs are clearer.

Old Business – none.

New Business

Our Springfest fundraising event will occur again next Spring and we need to identify a theme. One suggestion was a chili cook-off among first responders. Another idea, considering recent events, was hurricane preparedness.

The Landfall Foundation Holiday Market, which will take place on December 4, requires our attention soon. We should conduct an inventory to identify what, if any, safety items we will need to purchase.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of any necessary items and to restock our safety vest inventory. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Smoot, Secretary