June 13, 2022

Approved Minutes

 Fiddletown Neighborhood Radio Watch Organizational Meeting

In attendance:

Bob Kleinbrahm, Chair & Net Control

Terry Houseman

Sue Wilson

Barb Reilly, Treasurer

Ted Langlett

Joe Pardini

Jim Huston

Kent Oster

Steve Allred

Kate Dougherty, Secretary

1. Background

 Discussion: Sue Wilson has spearheaded the effort for “Fire Safe Fiddletown” over the past 2 years. A shower was installed in the Fiddletown Fire Station and is now staffed on weekends for structural fires. The Red Mule Repeater was up and running in August of 2021, just days before the Caldor Fire started. GMRS radios were used for both fire notification, and also during winter storms to help people get propane and dig out of the snow.

Action: Continue to assess ways to get radios in more hands.

Responsible Party: This Committee

Deadline: Ongoing.

1. Sourcing Radios in the Past

Discussion: We sourced 2 batches of radios in the summer of 2021.

Those were funded by an Angel donation and Joe Pistritto respectively. They were both reimbursed through the radio sales handled by Kate and Paul Dougherty. The programming was done by Joe Pistritto. Everyone should have a backup battery. Extra batteries can be purchased on E-Bay. If we do sales under the Fiddletown Community Center 501-3c Tax must be charged.

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Conclusion: Need to continue to raise funds for maintenance. May increase price of radios from $75 to $90 to include sales tax and remainder put into a fund for maintenance of the network.

Action: Barb Reilly will look into charging sales tax

Deadline: By next committee meeting

1. Sourcing more radios.

Discussion: Sue Wilson has sourced 2 batches of radios from the El Dorado’s Steve Gregorich in the past. These were all Kenwood TK 380.

Conclusion: There are currently 25 radios on reserve, which can be purchased at any time.

Action: 25 radios at $75 each = $1875. Raise Funds or use grant to cover those costs?

Deadline: July 19, 2022 for Sales at Town Hall.

1. July 2021 Sign Up Sheets for volunteers.

Discussion: Sue Wilson has those sign up sheets.

Conclusion: Sue will try to find them.

Action: Begin to reach out to those volunteers to help.

Deadline: July 1, 2022 to begin to reach out to those folks in time for Town Hall on July 19.

1. Cobble Ridge Repeater

Discussion: Very close to completion. Antenna up but shack not done. Recommending solar panels for both Cobble Ridge and Red Mule Repeater. Kent Oster sourced 6 solar panels for $1500. We only need 4 solar panels, 2 for each repeater, with 110 electricity for backup.

Conclusion: When Cobble Ridge completed on or around June 25, all radios will have to be reprogrammed. Bob Kleinbrahm will individually work with new users to insure they have a good signal and improve antenna as needed, at their location.

Action: Bob Kleinbrahm will reprogram radios during Town Hall, then on an individual basis, as needed. He already has software and cables. Kent should be reimbursed for solar panels so another fund raising or

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grant need. Lisa Cunningham should be reimbursed for electricity on repeater.

Deadline: June 19, 2022 initially at Town Hall.

1. Ongoing training for Users

Discussion: Consider doing a monthly Zoom during the Net on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

Conclusion: Use the Fiddletown Community Center Zoom Account.

Action: Bob Kleinbrahm to coordinate will FCC to access Zoom account and select a date.

Deadline: Bob to schedule at his convenience.

1. Fundraising

Discussion: Funds needed to reimburse volunteers for out of pocket expenses, to buy radios, and ongoing maintenance of the system. There is a $1,000 dollar grant is likely coming from Sierra Pacific Industries. Walmart also offers grants.

Action: Barbara Reilly willing to work on grant applications.

Deadline: As able to locate grants.

1. Absence of Participants on weekly net.

Discussion: There a many members of the net who have never have participated in the Wednesday Net Control check-ins. The reasons being: Poor connection, do not want to make the weekly commitment, are intimidated by radio protocol.

Action: Bob Kleinbrahm Continue to reach out to non-participants to identify reasons for absence, and what we can do to help them engage.

Deadline: Ongoing

9. Turning on ALERT function

Discussion: This is a loud tone that announces an emergency.

Action: Bob K to Designate one or two people who are authorized to initiate this emergency tone. Also, when reprograming radios confirm that Red Mule Repeater is listed as a channel that can be part of scan function.

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11. Promotion Activities

Discussion: Thank you Sue Wilson for creating brochure, with the help of Deidre Muller. On next run replace the term “broadcast” with “transmission”. Who is monitoring email addresses listed on brochure? Also, there is a “sign up” link that is a PDF and does not work.

We could really use our own website, which could have a link on the Fiddletown Neighborhood site.

Action: Sue Wilson will discuss both Website and brochure electronic resources with Deidre Muller.

Deadline: When possible

12. Town Hall: July 19 at 5:00 pm

Discussion: Need this meeting to re-group, program radios, and sell radios. This meeting should be advertised widely for maximum participation.

Conclusion: Advertise with weather proof banner. Perhaps Lynn Sanders may be able to assist with design.

Action: Barb Reilly to ask Lynn Sanders if she would be willing to create design for banner Barb Reilly to ask Susie Jones where she has banners made. Also, Barb Reilly to reserve Fiddletown Community Center for July 19 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

 Draft Agenda: 1. Cobble Ridge up and Running (photos)

 2. See new coverage map (Sue)

3. Reprogram your radio (Bob)

 4. Train on use of radio (who?)

 5. Sell radios (Kate Dougherty)

6. ??? Other topics???