

DELAWARE REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DRA)
MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING
MONDAY 9 December 2019
(As approved 9 March 2020)

The Quarterly meeting of the Delaware Repeater Association (DRA) was held at the Brandywine Town Center, 4050 Brandywine Parkway, North Wilmington, DE, on Monday 9 December 2019.

DRA President Frank Filipkowski called the meeting to order at 19:01, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor fallen first responders, military, and Silent Keys.

The following persons were present: President Frank Filipkowski (AD3M); Vice President Dave Stepnowski (KC3AM); Treasurer Mark Stillman (KA3JUJ); Secretary Dave Scott (KC3BEJ); Trustee and Register Agent Bill Greenhalgh (W3DE); Paul Milazzo (K3PGM); Tom Perry (KC3FAU); Jim Kravitz Jr. (K3JFK); Jeff Backus (N3GJB) and Joe Petro (N1FLU).

REPORTS:

Frank reported that the front of the 2715 Ebricht Rd block house has been painted. Dave Stepnowski, Bill Greenhalgh, and Frank did the work, and the results looked good.

Frank thanked Mark Stillman for passing along a video on the 501(c)(3) application process. Frank summarized the process and other requirements to qualify for tax exempt status, noting there is a \$275 application fee.

Paul Milazzo observed that in order to qualify for tax exempt status as a charitable organization, it is desirable that the organization have an educational purpose. We should have some defined educational activity. Dave Scott asked about our public service aspect as potentially advantageous in the application process, but consensus was that an educational mission is preferred. It was also mentioned that it is better to have funding from a large number of small donors, rather than a single large donor.

Mark mentioned that we had sample 501(c)(3) application language templates, and that we could revise and/or update our Constitution to make it more relevant to qualifying for 501(c)(3) status. Frank asked if Mark could e-mail out our Constitution to the membership for comments on a proposed revision. Mark will send it out.

Frank also reported that he has periodically updated the Winlink software at the Ebricht Road facility. Dave Scott reported good results using packet on 146.070 for the regular Monday Winlink net.

Turning to the matter of election of officers for 2020, Frank reported that the candidate search committee of Dave Stepnowski and Mark Stillman recommended retaining the current slate of officers for 2020. Motion to keep the existing slate of officers was unanimously approved.

Finally, Frank reported the findings of the annual DRA financial audit, completed by him and Bill Greenhalgh. There were no issues or discrepancies to report. At the time of the audit there was \$1923.75 in our bank account.

Dave Stepnowski reported that the Ebright Rd block house paint job looks good, but we still need to do the remaining three sides of the building. No problems reported with the Newark repeater, excepting that there is no amplifier on the UHF system, which is just putting out 20 Watts.

Frank mentioned that there has been some discussion about moving the County's ARES Primary Emergency Frequency from the 146.730 Repeater to the 146.700 repeater in Newark. Dave Scott further elaborated on the matter, citing the October SET After Action Report's finding that many hams located in the Delaware City area and south of the C&D Canal, particularly those using HTs, were unable to hit 146.730, but could hit 146.700. Dave mentioned that additional testing of 146.700 by northern NCC hams would be conducted to determine the feasibility of making a change to the County's ARES Emergency Reference Sheet. Dave suggested this test and evaluation could be done after the next several regular Tuesday night CARES nets.

Mark provided the Treasurer's report dated 1 December 2019, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. As of 1 December, we had \$1981.42 in our account. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Dave Scott read a copy of the minutes of the 9 September meeting, which were unanimously approved.

Mark Stillman needed to leave at 19:29 for personal reasons.

Paul Milazzo reported on the MESH network. Frank and Paul went to the Porter Road Filtration Station (PRFS) on Friday 6 December, and got the system working between Ebright Road and the PRFS. They spent about 2.5 hours on the project, which included de-bugging an Ethernet cable, and were pleased with the results. Paul said we still need a UPS and remote power controller at the PRFS.

Paul reported that there should be no problems communicating between the PRFS and Wilmington Hospital downtown. Paul needs to coordinate with John DiGiovanni to access to the MESH gear there. Paul has all the materials necessary to set up the Wilmington Hospital radio room for the MESH network.

Register Agent and Trustee Bill Greenhalgh reported no outages on the 146.730 repeater.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank reminded everyone that we still need to paint the remaining three sides of the Ebright Road blockhouse. This will likely be deferred until the Spring. Dave Stepnowski was encouraged that there was no evidence of rodents in the block house, plus the bird infestation seems cured.

Paul Milazzo did report some issues when testing the Ethernet cable at the PRFS. He proposed we purchase a suitable Cat V Ethernet cable tester, which should run about \$400 for the capabilities we need. Paul will do some additional research on suitable testers and make a recommendation for consideration at our March 2020 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The matter of election of officers for 2020 was handled during the Reports portion of the meeting.

No other old business.

Meeting dates for 2020 are as follows: Monday 9 March; Monday 8 June; Monday 14 September; and Monday 14 December. Meetings will continue to be held at the Brandywine Town Center.

Meeting adjourned at 19:46.

There was no educational program this evening.

Respectfully submitted 11 December 2019,

Dave Scott KC3BEJ, DRA Secretary