

**DELAWARE REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DRA)**  
**MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**MONDAY 8 June 2020**  
**ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**  
**(As approved 14 September 2020)**

The Quarterly meeting of the Delaware Repeater Association (DRA) was held by Zoom teleconference because the Brandywine Town Center venue was unavailable due to the social distancing requirements associated with the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Jerry Simonowitz (KB2GCG) hosted the Zoom teleconference. DRA President Frank Filipkowski called the meeting to order at 19:05, 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); Member-at-Large John DiGiovanni (N3LUD); Ted Allen (K3RTA); Geoff Backus (N3GJB); Mark Edgar (N3JPW); Joe Grib (K13B); Wayne Hale (K3WHH); Wendy Horn (KB3ZDM); Paul Milazzo (K3PGM); Brian Pasternak (AB3RI); Tom Perry (KC3FAU); and Dennis Yocum (KC3DY).

**REPORTS:**

Frank reported on a maintenance update to the Winlink server at the Ebright Road repeater site; there were no major issues. We added to the back-up battery bank, and now have a 24V UPS, but are thinking about a 3KW inverter to get 13.8 V on the battery bank. At present the float charge is 12V. We also need to activate the fan for the summer months.

Dave Stepnowski reported that the fan is now on. Dave did some cleanup and cut the grass; he also reported the fence is in good condition. The brick house still needs some paint work, which may be deferred to the fall when weather is better.

Mark Stillman gave the Treasurer's report dated 29 May 2020, a copy of which will be appended to the approved version of these minutes. The report, showing a balance of \$1125.33, was unanimously approved.

Dave Scott summarized the minutes of the 9 March 2020 meeting, which he e-mailed to members prior to this meeting for comment. The minutes were unanimously approved.

John DiGiovanni indicated that future CARES meetings, normally held quarterly at Christiana Hospital in Newark, will be held by Zoom during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bill Greenhalgh reported that he spoke with Lee Gray (W3LDG) concerning the status of the equipment at the Newark Windy Hills water tower. Lee reported that all equipment is OK. Bill also said that the 146.730 and 448.375 repeaters at Ebright Road are OK.

Paul Milazzo updated everyone on the status of the cable scanner, the purchase of which was approved at the March meeting. Treasurer Mark Stillman was able purchase the unit and get it to Paul before the

onset of Covid-19 social distancing restrictions. Paul is happy with the performance of the new cable scanner. Frank asked Paul to comment on the status of his MESH letter, which was drafted to explain the MESH concept to potential served agencies and other EmComm partners. Paul raised the question of how we can extend the NCC MESH infrastructure further south into Kent and Sussex Counties. He said there was some interest on the part of the Sussex Amateur Radio Association (SARA). Bill Greenhalgh asked if we had contacts in Kent County. Frank asked Dave Scott to reach out to some of his contacts in Kent County to see if they'd be interested in a presentation on the MESH system.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Frank raised the topic of amending our Constitution and By-Laws if we decide to go for 501(c)(3) status. Frank sent out a draft of an amended Constitution for comment, which might be better aligned for non-profit status, as it would emphasize our re-orientation as educational organization. Dave Scott said he'd consolidate all comments into a single document to simplify the review process. John seconded the opinion that it would be desirable to move forward with the 501(c)(3) process.

Meeting adjourned at 20:00. Next meeting will be Monday 14 September 2020 by Zoom tele-conference.

Respectfully submitted, 4 September 2020

Dave Scott, KC3BEJ, DRA Secretary