

DELAWARE REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DRA)
MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING
MONDAY 14 December 2020
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
(As Approved 8 March 2021)

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 Simonowits (KB2GCG) hosted the Zoom teleconference.

DRA President Frank Filipkowski (AD3M) called the meeting to order at 19:04, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor fallen first responders, military, and Silent Keys. Frank then provided the agenda for the meeting.

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 Di Giovanni (N3LUD); Ted Allen (K3RTA); Monte Bacon (KA3WOW); Bill Blatz (K3ONO); Tom Gerard (KB3ONJ); Will Greenhalgh; Joe Grib (KI3B); Wayne Hale (K3WHH); Wendy Horn (KB3ZDM); Davis Jefferson (KZ3DEL); Paul Milazzo (K3PGM); Rob Olszewski (N3FJ); Brian Pasternak (KA3VSP); Tom Perry (KC3FAU); Jerry Simonowits (KB2GCG) and, Chet Thayer (WA3I).

REPORTS:

President Frank Filipkowski reported that we are looking at a backup battery system for the Ebright Rd repeater because the existing 12V charging system is ineffective. The system has been re-wired with heavier gauge cable and a new charger providing 13.8V. With this system, things seem to be holding at 12.8V. We have an inverter pending installation which will plug into a UPS to provide cleaner power to the system. Frank also reported that new cameras have been installed in the block house area.

Vice President Dave Stepnowski (KC3AM) reported all was OK inside and outside of the block house. He set up some mouse traps to deal with the rodent situation. Dave did some housecleaning inside, the fence is in good condition, and the topside condition is good. There are no issues with the Newark repeater as far as he knows.

Mark Stillman (KA3JUJ) provided his Treasurer's Report, indicating a balance of \$1210.77 our account as of 1 December 2020. His Report was unanimously approved, a copy of which will be appended to the approved version of these minutes.

Secretary Dave Scott (KC3BEJ) summarized the minutes of the 14 September 2020 meeting (which he previously provided to members by e-mail for comment), and they were unanimously approved.

John DiGiovanni (N3LUD), Member-at-Large, reported on a possible joint EmComm exercise between New Castle County and Chester County PA amateurs around the Christmas Holiday break. John advised that due to Covid precautions, there will be no license exams, or in person CARES meetings at Christiana

Hospital until further notice. He also mentioned that Christiana Hospital is doing Covid testing on alternate Wednesdays.

Register Agent Bill Greenhalgh (W3DE) reported a power outage occurred at Ebright Rd, however the repeater's battery backup worked fine. Bill also reported the Newark Windy Hills repeater was in good shape, and Lee Gray (W3LDG) needed to do some cleaning.

Paul Milazzo (K3PGM) reported on the status of our MESH Network. Paul noted we have 23 nodes on line, and that there was a power outage going through Bill Greenhalgh's house, as noted by Bill above. Paul is also working on AREDN software, and the NPR-70 modems, which he characterized as "slow but useable". Frank commented that the Winlink situation requires a cooperative effort to keep on line.

Motion to accept the existing slate of DRA officers for continued service through 2021 was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The latest draft revision to the DRA Constitution and By-Laws, incorporating comments from Paul Milazzo was presented. Mark Stillman will get with Paul to finalize some language and send that draft out to all members for final comment. Paul wanted to ensure we have a clear path to accept donated equipment. Motion was approved to continue to work on the Constitution and By-Laws, with a target finish by March 2021.

Frank noted that the blockhouse painting project has been delayed to due weather and the Covid situation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brian Pasternak inquired about the proposed holiday NCC-CHESCO EmComm exercise, and Dave Scott briefed on proposals for a mini-SET and joint exercise.

Jerry Simonowits reminded meeting attendees about Zoom security measures, particularly the need to log in with your name and call sign, and ensure your camera is on to verify your ID.

Meeting adjourned at 20:15. There was no post meeting education and training program. Next meeting will be Monday 8 March 2021, by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, 7 March 2021

Dave Scott (KC3BEJ), Secretary.