

**DELAWARE REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DRA)
MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING
MONDAY 8 March 2021
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
(As approved 14 June 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.

Treasurer Mark Stillman (KA3JUU) hosted the Zoom teleconference.

DRA President Frank Filipkowski (AD3M) 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, with special recognition for DRA Register Agent and W3DRA Trustee, Bill Greenhalgh (W3DE) (SK).

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 (KA3JUU); Secretary Dave Scott (KC3BEJ); Alan Amberg (K3AAA); Tom Gerard (KB3ONJ); Joe Grib (K13B); Wayne Hale (K3WHH); Wendy Horn (KB3ZDM); Davis Jefferson (K3DHJ); Paul Milazzo (K3PGM); Brian Pasternak (KA3VSP); Tom Perry (KC3FAU); Jerry Simonowits (KB2GCG); Chet Thayer (WA3I); and, Dennis Yocum (KC3DY).

REPORTS:

President Frank Filipkowski reported that there were some issues with the Winlink connection at the Ebright Rd site, which were recently resolved by Paul Milazzo (K3PGM). Frank noted that we previously accessed the internet through Bill Greenhalgh's house, however with Bill's passing, we now need to provide our own internet service to the Ebright Rd block house.

Vice President Dave Stepnowski (KC3AM) reported that all conditions looked good at Ebright, however we still need some fence repairs. Dave also reported that the 146.955 statewide linked repeater, and the MESH node at the Porter Road Filtration Station is down, and with Covid protocols in place, Dave may have difficulty accessing the site to effect repairs. Dave will inquire with the building's owners what he has to do to get access. Dave further reported that Lee Gray (W3LDG) has not visited the Windy Hills (Newark) site in person in a while, but things appear to be operating normally there.

Treasurer Mark Stillman (KA3JUU) provided his Treasurer's report, a copy of which will be appended to the approved version of these minutes. His report was unanimously approved.

Secretary Dave Scott (KC3BEJ) reviewed the draft of the 14 December 2020 meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank noted that the urgent item now is to find a new Trustee for W3DRA and a new Registered Agent for the DRA to replace the late Bill Greenhalgh. Additionally, we need to get a new SysOp for the

Winlink node at Ebright. Some discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of a repeater license Trustee. Wendy Horn (KB3ZDM) asked if we can break up the various responsibilities now vacant, and Frank said “yes, but we need to have the Winlink SysOp and repeater Trustee be the same person.” He added that it would be ideal for that person to have an Extra Class license, to maximize the frequencies available for use. Vice President Dave Stepnowski (KC3AM) stepped up to volunteer to be the Trustee and Registered Agent. Dave will use his home address as Registered Agent.

Discussion moved to the cost of providing internet to the blockhouse. Dave Stepnowski said that Verizon FIOS internet would be about \$40/month for 200Mb capacity; there would be no installation charge as a Verizon line already exists to the block house. Dave also said we have plenty of routers we can use, so there is no need to incur a monthly router rental fee. There followed some technical discussions of router installations, and temporary work arounds from Bill’s house.

Paul Milazzo (K3PGM) asked, “how are we going to pay for this?” This prompted some mention of the need to expedite our 501(c)(3) application process, so we can begin fund raising.

Wendy asked about the tower ownership. The land, block house and tower are owned by Robbie McCray (W3RSM) who lets the DRA use the site for our operations. Discussion then followed about Robbie’s long term plans for the site, and contingency plans should Robbie decide to sell the property. It was agreed that we should reach out to Robbie and discuss what his long term plans are for the site.

Davis Jefferson (K3DHJ) wanted to know what our backup plan was if we had to relocate from Ebright Rd. A motion to establish a contingency planning committee to explore internet service continuation and maintenance of existing hardware was unanimously approved; Wendy and Davis will head up the committee and report back to leadership with recommendations.

Tom Gerard (KB3ONJ) suggested looking into the Hockessin Fire Company’s tower as a possible backup site, but Dave Stepnowski said that site’s location could be a problem. Paul Milazzo recommended looking at buildings rather than towers due to easier access to building’s roof tops.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion moved to the status of our proposed new Constitution. The latest iteration of the proposed new Constitution included edits by Paul Milazzo and Wendy Horn. Dave Scott will forward the Paul and Wendy version of the Constitution to the membership by e-mail for final review and comment. A special follow-up Zoom meeting to vote on the new Constitution will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

OTHER ITEMS:

Mark Stillman informed meeting attendees about the possibility of another on line, ARRL EC-016, *Public Service and Emergency Management for Radio Amateurs* class convening in the near future. He, Dave Scott, and several other DE Amateurs recently took the on line course and found it very worthwhile.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:14. Next regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting will be Monday 14 June 2021.

Respectfully submitted, 16 March 2021
Dave Scott KC3BEJ, Secretary