



SEMARA

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM by President Marcel Dumont, W1MLD.

There were 16 members present at the club, 4 online via zoom, and 1 guest.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary report was read and posted on the bulletin board. A motion was made and seconded to accept as read and voted unanimously in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer report was read:

Income from Blue Sky for taxes \$1,885.00

Expenses \$654.36

Balance \$217,900.00 which does not include the \$12,000 Blue Sky deposit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Buildings & Grounds**

Manny Estrella and Rich Netinho repaired the shed replacing the siding and removing the damaged windows.

Marcel said he talked to Carlos and Danny and they said they will be here in 2 weeks to work on the porch and the roof.

Rich Netinho mentioned that the club landscaper told him that he believes someone had placed a large pile of leaves on the clubs property and that he would remove them this time but not in the future.

Mike McDonald trimmed the bushes in front of the club.

- **Scholarship**

None

- **Technical**

Rick Cabral, W1RJC, mentioned that he replaced the network switches in the club to try to simplify the clubs systems.

He also mentioned that he emailed the new antenna specifications to Alan Costello but the email bounced because his mail box was full.

Rick also added the new NEXNET phone extension to the clubs existing phone system so we don't have two separate phones.

The All Star node for the 220 repeater is still being worked on and not yet active.

Rich Netinho mentioned that there was an issue with Apple devices trying to connect to the clubs HF remote system so he changed a port to correct the issue.

Walt Schneider, N1ZE wants to create a separate group to work on the clubs remote radio issues. Ben Jackson feels that's not necessary and can be handled by the existing members in the tech committee. Walt mentioned that some of the noise issues the club has experienced on the radios have been reduced after the network switches were replaced. He also suggested that the club create a heat map of the noise floor in the area to have a baseline for when the solar field is installed to see if it has an impact on the radios.

There was a discussion about the remote control software and training on how to use it. The issues are how to remotely select an antenna and control the antenna rotors. Joe Barros, K1EZ, said he will send an email to Ham Plus to see if they have any input on what equipment is needed to control their equipment remotely.

There was also a discussion about what call sign to use. Walt mentioned that people should use their own call sign and indicate they are transmitting remotely from Dartmouth.

Rick Cabral said he received the Bird 43 100 watt VHF 150 MHz watt meter slug from Jim Novakoff N1DKG. It was mentioned that the club send the Coast Guard a thank you letter for the donation.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- **ARES, RACES, SKYWARN**

There is a RACES drill on the first Monday of each month at 1930 hours.

- **Radio Events**

Nothing

- **WEB**

Mike Ponte said everything is running fine.

Rick Cabral said he will be working on updating the members list on the web site and making other minor updates.

COMMUNICATIONS

The club received some QSL cards that needed to be acknowledged.

RATIFICATION of NEW MEMBERS

Three applications for membership that were accepted at the September meeting from, Enoch Savoie KC1YBD, David Kula KC1VZH, and Barry Noel, W1BSN were brought up for a vote for full membership. A motion was made, seconded and voted in favor to grant lifetime membership.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer Mike McDonald brought up the club investment options that were discussed at previous meetings. Mike recommends that the club invest the interest earned from the Treasury Bills the club holds, in a Fidelity fund that tracks the S&P 500 for a stable, long term investment to generate income. Mike stressed that it would only be the interest earned from the T-Bills, which is about \$500 per month, and not a lump sum investment of club funds. The fund currently has an administration fee of only 0.015%. President Marcel Dumont voiced his concerns against the idea. Paul Fredette motioned to table the matter to a future date; it was seconded and voted in favor.

Rick Cabral received a hand written list from Ken Howland on the used equipment the club has. Rick said he didn't have time to research and price the item to take to Near-Fest. Joe Barros, K1EZ, mentioned that it was brought up in the past that we should put a fair market price on the items, create a list, and offer them for sale to club members first. We could also advertise them on the club web site or the Rhode Island Swap and Sell net.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Fredette, made a motion that the club create a written policy for members regarding use of the remote station. The motion was seconded and voted in favor.

Mike McDonald motioned that the club give him permission to spend up to \$300 on postage and stationary supplies. The motion was seconded and voted in favor.

FOR THE GOOD of THE CLUB

Marcel Dumont mentioned that he had received several calls from the alarm monitoring company for trouble signals. The alarm company sent a technician and found loose wires and a bad electrical receptacle. Both items were repaired.

Mike McDonald mentioned that he contacted Eversource Electric about the burnt out flood light on the pole across the street. He also requested an upgrade to an LED fixture. Eversource said they would create a repair ticket and make the upgrade if a fixture is available.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM was seconded and voted unanimously in favor.