



## SEMARA

54 Donald Street  
Dartmouth, MA 02748-1902  
(508) 997-7070

 [semara.org](http://semara.org)  
 [w1aec@semara.org](mailto:w1aec@semara.org)



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# BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Club President Richard Netinho, AC1JG.

There were 19 members present at the club, 5 online via zoom.

Officers Present: President	Richard Netinho, AC1JG
Vice President	Joe Barros, K1EZ
Treasurer	Mike McDonald, KB1NB
Secretary	Walt Schneider, N1ZE

## 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 and accepted:

Cash flow. A check for 20 for initiation fee was received. The \$20 check was from applicant W1AMN.

Expenses: \$5597.00 which included \$5100.00 for taxes

The club has \$203,402.00 in total funds, not including the separate 12K blue sky account.

It was noted that the club has not received the check from blue sky.

A motion was made and the club voted in favor of sending the treasures report to audit.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### **Buildings & Grounds**

Marty KA1YFV is continuing as the chairman of the building and grounds with Manny Estela KC1VMI on the committee.

Marty KA1YFV noted that all is good with the grounds. The new porch looked great. It was noted that there is sharp debris, nails, and glass shards in the dirt near the porch.

It was noted by one of the members that the Vent needs to be fixed.

Manny Estela, KC1VMI, said he can take care of the porch and rotted deck boards once the weather breaks.

## ? **Scholarship**

Discussion was had concerning the scholarship fund and that no students had applied in a number of years. A question was asked should the club reestablish the committee as no one has applied. Schools should get letter from the club. It was noted that letters from the club have been sent to various schools, and that no one had applied. It was suggested these are not being posted at schools. It was discussed that the plan should be to try again this year with a new mailing. Paul Fredette, K1YBE, was appointed as the chair for the scholarship committee and will review the bylaws concerning how to best go forward.

## ? **Technical**

Rich Netinho, AC1JG, mentioned that the club has network issues and will meet with Rick Cabral, W1RJC, to discuss how to fix them. He also mentioned that the ham clock computer was having issues and was replaced.

A question was asked, who are the technical committee chair people. Currently, the technical committee is Joe Barros, Rich Netinho, Ben Jackson and Jed Cohen. with possibility of adding Rick Cabral. It was noted that Rick Cabral, W1RJC, is working to get the 220 antenna on the tower, with net-com to solve the installation. Rick is still working on repeater. Jed Barton noted that the 220 antenna will be going up on tower.

There was a discussion about the cables going up the tower. A 7/8 cable is there now which is running triband comet antenna. Spare is the 2 inch/2.25 inch cable. The 220 on 1 5/8 inch cable. Joe Barros noted that there are no connectors on the 2.25 inch cable and the loss for this was not much different. The plan is to continue with the existing 7/8 inch cable for the comet on UHF.

A discussion was had concerning how to use all of the new features, such as Allstar, etc. No one knows how to use this stuff. It was noted that a word document being prepared by Jed Barton on to how to use these features. It was noted that members need to have a tutorial. This should be documented in the members section. It should include all the features of the repeater, including the IRLP node. All three machines have viewable dash board. A discussion about there may not be any back up images in a secure spot for any of the computers running the repeaters. It was discussed that the club needs to figure out how to manage backups for how to do this stuff, including setup info and passwords. It was determined that a meeting with Rick Cabral, Jed and Rich Netinho and Joe Barros to how best to document the various systems.

There was no discussion on the HF Noise issues which persist.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### ? **ARES, RACES, SKYWARN**

Ed Caron, KA1RSY, Nothing to report.

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

### ? **Radio Events**

Ben Jackson is planning to have winter field day on 24/25 Jan 2026.

Joe Barros K1EZ led a discussion about the log book not being filled in and various contacts being logged in on line on QRZ dot com by the other operators, but no corresponding contacts in the club log books. A short discussion on log book use was had. In some cases, no log book entry was found. Some contacts may have been on scraps of paper. It was noted that some may have been remote users who signed the club call and not their own.

## **WEB**

Mike Ponte, W1BZJ, said everything is running fine. Rick Cabral, W1RJC, updated the link for the Zoom meeting.

Everything is working on the website. ARRL website is an affiliate link are added in and updated with new officers.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None to report

## **RATIFICATION of NEW MEMBERS**

A motion was made, seconded and voted in favor to accept Don Messier KW1DON for full life membership.

An application for membership was received from W1AMN Adam Nawoichik. A motion was made, seconded, and voted in favor to accept the application and forward to the February meeting for a vote for life membership.

Welcome package discussion. Joe Barros has a welcome package but could not open the old files. It was suggested that a paper copy might be located in the files. Rick Netinho suggested that a welcome package be sent out.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Marcel Dumont mentioned he spoke to the club lawyer, Scott Lang, regarding Blue Sky wanting to renegotiate the tower rental due based on the number of tenants on the tower. Marcel noted the payment is still under dispute and the club should get interest for non payment. Payment should be at approximately \$45k at the original rate. It was noted that the club has not received payment as of January 8<sup>th</sup>. Marcel reported the club should expect a check for approximately \$34000.00 for the Blue sky Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to present. It was noted that the club needed to vote to accept this payment, and that the acceptance would be in dispute. It was noted that the Dish network also may be leaving the tower and blue sky is looking for alternatives.

Discussion continued that the Blue Sky was to have added gravel and regraded the drive way has not been done. Work on the driveway should be paid for by Blue Sky Cranes caused the ruts. Need repaired. Blue sky took it over, and Marcel was told they would cover this. In addition, there is an issue with the 6 foot area around the fence not being cleared per agreements.

There was discussion concerning snow plowing which needs to be over 3 inches. It was noted that last year they didn't plow and the club had to call and have them do it.

Discussion on contamination noted this is all toward the street. 75K was spent in the past to deal with the oil spill. Nothing has been done with this from the old dump. Grading the roadway should be no issue. Its all an issue if they dig.

Motion was made, seconded and voted on to authorize Attorney Lang to request interest on the Blue Sky payment. Approved.

Mike McDonald made a motion which was seconded to invest some amount of \$ into stocks. This would be for a long period of time using dollar cost averaging using an amount equal to approximately half of interest from treasure bonds. This amount, approx \$500.00 per month, would be would be invested into some sort of S&P 500 index fund, with low fees. Fidelity investments has offered a 0.015% fee for management. The specific fund proposed is FXAIX which tracks the S&P 500. Mike McDonald gave examples in a spread sheet showing what a hypothetical investment would have made over the past year. Marcel Dumont asked where the money will come from. It was explained that the money would come from interest gained on treasury. It was discussed if the interest is \$750.00 per month from treasury monthly interest and Rich Netinho suggested 2/3 of the interest be reinvested in stocks then the club would invest 500 per month in the fidelity FXAIX fund.

*Investment will not start until treasury bill investments are up and running and the amount will be 500 dollars from Treasury interest. (Note... Mike may take from Checking and add to Treasury bill investment every month, and deduct from that the interest amount so as to make the actual payment function better because there is no simple way to move money from the treasury accounts into the FXAIX account)*

The club voted 23 in favor, one opposed. The motion passed.

Mike McDonald noted Letter is pending resolution with government to get treasury account reactivated.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Rick Netinho suggested we have hot dogs at the meetings. The club will clean the hot dog machine and have hot dogs next meeting!

It was noted that an emergency permit issued for the stairs. It was suggested by Marcel Dumont that the club get a copy of the permit for the files.

A motion was made and seconded by Scott Smith KE1CN for an annual review of all investments by the fiance committee. Passed.

A motion was made by Mike Tellier, N1MAT to have a special finance committee. Passed.

A discussion have an auction of old radio equipment and clean up stuff. It was noted that this was and would be discussed further at the board of directors meeting. Passed.

New Business. A draft letter blue Sky is needed to identify the changes in club leadership and to update the Massachusetts state corporation filings and also Bank filings.

## **FOR THE GOOD of THE CLUB**

A new QSL card was presented and a motion was made by Paul Fredette and seconded to make 1000 copies of a new QSL card. A vote was taken and passed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 8:27 PM was seconded and voted unanimously in favor

**CLUB MEETING SIGN IN SHEET**

Date: 1/8/26

**SEMARA BUSINESS MEETING ROSTER**

Please Print

**MEMBERS**

	CALL	NAME
1	K1EZ	JOSEPH BARROS
2	N1ZE	WALT SCHNEIDER
3	W1BSN	BARRY NOEL
4	K1WBF	MARC JODIN
5	KCIVMI	Manuel Estrada
6	N1FXC	Joseph KRNOSK
7	N1HCW	Bob Methia
8	A61Y	SP CITI POL
9	K1YFV	Marty
10	W1GYV	LARRY FERREIRA
11	KCIVYK	LARRY MAURYLIK
12	K1EBO	Richard Loiselle
13	W1HLD	MARCEL J. DOMONT
14	K1RSY	ED CARON
15	KBINB	MICHAEL J MCDONALD
16	AC1JG	RICHARD RETINK
17	KE1CN	SCOTT SMITH
18	N1MAT	MIKE TELLIER
19	K1YDE	PAUL FREDETTE
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*ONLINE*

	CALL	NAME
26	N1SBC	
27	N1MVK	
28	N1VUF	
29		MIKE POUTE
30	W1EAV	CHRIS WASHAURN
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**GUESTS**

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