



Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association

54 Donald St.
Dartmouth, MA 02748
Tel: 508-997-7070

SEMARA March Business Meeting

March 1, 2007

Louie-W1CH called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

The meeting commenced with a salute to the flag, and was followed by a “Moment of Silence” in remembrance of William M Miller Jr. –K1IBR, who passed away on January 5, 2007, after a short illness. A roll call of members was conducted which showed 33 voting members present, and 1 guest.

Secretaries Report:

Larry-W1DBX made a motion that the secretary’s report be accepted as written and posted on the SEMARA website and was accepted unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

Mike-KB1NB read the treasurers report, explained whatever questions that arose, and John-W1ZYV made a motion for the report to be referred to audit. It passed unanimously.

Standing Committees:

Technical Committee: Tim-N1TI
Chairman not present

Building and Grounds: Mike- N1ITQ

Mike-N1ITQ stated that he wanted to thank Mike-KB1NB, for the helping hand that was extended to get the problem with the “cold air return” system repaired. He explained that after closely checking out the problem, it was discovered that no deterioration had taken place in the return system, but that the pipes that had been joined together by fitting them into one another, (usual procedure), and the seams sealed with duct tape. Over time, the duct tape had become unraveled and the pipes had come apart. The pipes were reassembled and secured with screws, and should not be a problem in the future. Mike also noted that the club should realize an improvement in fuel consumption with the repair.

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Mike also brought to the members attention that the fuel gauge on the tank was not accurate, and this situation was causing some members to panic, and resulted in him getting many e-mails and calls. He informed the membership that the club was now on an “automatic delivery system”, which should help to improve the situation.

It was also noted that a “soda run” was needed in the immediate future. Arrangements will be made by N1ITQ and KB1NB to make the necessary run.

New Building Committee: Dave- K1JGV

Dave introduced his committee members that were present, and proceeded to pass out a written document which included a recap of the research and planning activity conducted by them up to this point in time.

This document included 2 options that could be explored by the membership concerning new construction, and or renovation of the present building including an addition for a “radio room” or nothing at all. The demolition and removal of debris of the “hut” was also addressed. (A copy of the full document submitted by the committee may be found attached to the end of this month’s secretary’s report.)

The purpose of this document, said Dave, is to try to get a consensus from membership as to which direction that they would like to pursue concerning this project. He asked for a non-binding vote on it, but some members expressed concerns about voting on anything with no concrete details or cost estimates. Scott-W1EV suggested that the Town be shown the options in hand now, to try to “get a feel” of which option may be the most viable package for passage by them. He also expressed the thought that the membership might want to go in the direction that created the least cost and difficulties during the permitting and construction process.

Rob-KD1CY gave a short talk to enlighten the membership of the options that were presented. He stated that maybe we could set a goal, (possibly the May or June Meeting), where realistic cost estimates, and particulars on the options that were presented here, and a workable plan and cost to remove and dispose of the “hut” would be presented to the membership for a vote. This vote would be

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to give the committee the direction that they should proceed in securing the permits, costs, plans, and their recommendation of how their plan could be realized.

It was also noted by Mike-KB1NB that a past motion agreed to by the membership, mandates forth information on wood as well as alternative methods of construction for membership scrutiny. It was agreed by most that more information was needed, and that it should be brought forward during the subsequent meeting leading to May or June for the membership to be able to make a sensible determination of the direction to be taken.

Alan-WB1FQP, spoke in favor of a complete new construction of the clubhouse.

John-WA1ESO, said that waiting to vote in May or June was a reasonable approach.

Dave-W1CH, questioned what had happened to the inspection that was approved at the last meeting!

Bob-WX1DOG stated that taking down the hut is a “must”!

Don-N1PMB, suggested that we should bring the radio equipment up into the meeting hall, and discontinue using the hut, (citing safety issues.)

Mike-KB1NB questioned the wisdom of seeking a demolition permit for complete demolition, and then go back to amend if complete construction isn't approved by the membership.



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Communications: Bob-K1KVV

Read a card from Mrs. Grace Kish, widow of late member Bob Kish-KA1YON; expressing appreciation for a communication she received from the club, during her recent loss.

A letter from Tim-N1TI, expressing a desire to resign as chair of the technical committee, for personal reasons was read. He expressed the desire to remain as chair of the Web Site committee. He recommended that Dave-W1DJG, be asked if he would consider the chair. (A copy of the resignation letter is attached at the end of this report.)

Ratification of New Applicants:

No applications were submitted

Presidents Comments: Louie-W1CH

No comments were expressed

Aires/Skywarn: Rob-KD1CY

Rob-KD1CY gave a report on the last drill that had occurred. He spoke of some concerns with antennas and equipment that he had noticed during the drill, and stated that he would mention them to the Technical committee.

The P3 hurricane hunter Aircraft will be visiting Quonset Point, RI on April 30th, during 2-6PM. A special event station will be operative.

Old Business:

John-WA1ESO, reported to the membership with the samples and costs of the qsl cards that he requested at the last meeting. He had the cards available for viewing, and asked members for insight to improvements or omissions. The cards will cost \$130 per thousand. He made a motion to purchase the cards and it was passed unanimously. He will order them and present the bill for reimbursement when they are delivered.

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A communication from Jim Gilbert, a club member with no call yet, was read. He expressed a desire to apply for the job of cleaning the club, which was recommended by the Board of Directors at the last business meeting. He stated that he would clean the club twice a month for a fee of \$45 each cleaning. Some members questioned the legality of payment to a private individual. Would there be liability for taxes withheld, insurance? Some wondered aloud whether all members should be afforded a chance to bid. Could it be advertised on the SEMARA reflector?
Ron-WA1HGA's motion to table and to refer it to BOD for discussion passed unanimously.

Activities: Scott-W1EV

Scott-W1EV announced that a dinner in memory of Bill-K1IBR would be held in April, (Exact date to be announced) at the clubhouse and grounds. There will be no tickets sold, and any member and spouse is invited to attend. There will be no charge to the club, as Scott will be purchasing all the food involved. Watch the SEMARA reflector for details.

New Business:

Alan -WB1FQP made a motion that the club meeting hall be named the "William M. Miller Jr. Hall" in memoriam of Bill-K1IBR, who passed on January 5, 2007, who was a member for 54 years, and worked tirelessly for the betterment of the organization. This honor will remain in effect in the present meeting hall, and any other that may be constructed to replace it.

The motion carried unanimously.

Armand-W1bug motioned that the club accept a 14x17 portrait of Bill-K1IBR, donated by him, to be hung on a predominant wall in the meeting hall.

The motion carried unanimously.

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Rob-KD1CY, motioned that the “New Building Committee” collect all the information needed and present to the membership several directions that may be taken to bring the proposed project to fruition, with a target date of the June, 2007 business meeting.

It passed 32 to 1

Dave-K1JGV proposed that he would like to organize a work party in the near future to clean and discard all junk material from the hut, and that all the salvageable material be temporarily stored in the storage trailer. Please let him know if you are interested in giving a helping hand.

Mike-N1ITQ, asked that he be assigned a key to the storage trailer so that he will be able to access it whenever needed in the coming months. After some discussion, it was agreed that a key should be assigned to him for that trailer, because that equipment is included under building and grounds, of which he is chairman.

Don-N1PMB, made a motion that the radio equipment be incorporated into the meeting hall in the area in which the refrigerator and copier are now positioned. He cited safety of members in the hut, and also possible water damage that could occur given the condition of the outside shield of the hut.

The motion passed unanimously.

Rob-KD1CY: A proposal was introduced that Mike-N1ITQ be assigned the key he is seeking for the storage trailer,

It passed unanimously.

Mike-N1ITQ: presented a motion that he buy a new fuel gauge to be installed in the fuel tank. He explained that he doesn't like all the e-mails and phone calls about the level of the tank. He contends that the gauge is faulty, because when the tank gets filled the fuel gauge doesn't reflect it, and with a new gauge, the meter would show where the level actually is, and would also satisfy members who are concerned about the fill levels. He also stated that it would also afford him the ability to monitor the fuel levels and usage, in case any fuel is being stolen. Mike-KB1NB stated that he had in fact stuck the tank with a stick and tape measure recently, and in calculating the depth of the tank, and the level of the fuel, it proved to him that the gauge is indeed correct. Sonny-KA1ESG, who has expertise in this area, working as a fuel deliveryman for many years, explained that the tank has a fuel level whistle installed,

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and that the air buildup in the tank during filling is what sounds the whistle. When the fuel reaches the bottom of the air tube installed in the tank, the whistle stops, at which time the deliveryman also stops the fill process to avoid any oil spills. The tube can be anywhere from 12-18 inches long, and is the explanation why the gauge doesn't read full. The tank actually isn't!

When brought to vote, the motion failed with 2 in favor.

Mike-KB1NB: Explained the procedure required to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees, due to the passing of Bill-K1IBR, who was the chairman of the committee. In following the procedures in place, the month after the vacancy requires notice to the membership, the following month nominations are to be held, setting up for the actual election the third month. This procedure requires that the election of the new member be held at the May 2007 business meeting. The chairmanship of the "Board of Trustees" will be assumed by Larry-AA1FS, who is the ranking member left on the board.

Larry-W1DBX informed that he was asking in behalf of Rick-W1RJG, for permission to reinstall the 440-repeater system at the club repeater site under the same agreement as in the past. It was noted that something of that nature shouldn't be requested through a third party. It was suggested that he meet with the BOD for a discussion about this issue, and that the BOD could recommend their findings to the membership for their approval or disapproval.

No action was taken.

John-WA1ESO inquires about buying a 6mtr beam that is not being used at the present time and is tied against the tower.

Ron-WB1HGA expressed an interest in a broken keyer that is presently in the radio room, and offered \$20 for it.

Our present rules require that any objects with monetary value must be sold at auction.

The technical committee will be asked for an evaluation of the 2 items, and if they are still of use to the club. If they are declared surplus, they could be auctioned at the next business meeting.

Louie-W1CH appointed Dave -W1DJG chairman of the technical committee, which Dave accepted.

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Wayne-WA1CCM who has a sign making business, and had made up the existing sign on Donald Street a few years ago, proposed to refurbish the sign at no cost to the club. The backboard would be covered with white aluminum sheeting, and the vinyl letters attached to it. It will look basically the same except it will be a much more durable piece.

The club logo will be incorporated into the sign, as well as an acknowledgement that Alan Cooper founded the club. The proposal passed unanimously.

He also informed the membership that the Wm. M. Miller Way sign that was approved at the last business meeting was ready, and that a new bracket will be attached to make it more secure.

Armand-W1BUG will have the "Club Officer Board" in the meeting hall brought up to date. It was noted that the position of vice-president should have Dave-W1DJG engraved, as he served the majority of the year, in accordance with past precedent.

Bob-K1KVV announced that a new 10 mtr. Net will start on 29.490 on Tuesdays at 8:30 PM. Bob-N1HCW will be the net control. Now is a good time to get all those old 10 mtr. Radios ready, and repair those forgotten antennas. Check it out! It has the potential for a lot of fun, especially with the relaxation of rules by the FCC.

Don-N1PMB introduced a motion to adjourn. There was no discussion on the proposal and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 PM
Respectively Submitted,

Armand-W1BUG, Secretary

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(This handout distributed at the March 1st meeting)

The SEMARA Building/Renovation Committee has been meeting informally for the past 3 weeks to discuss recommendations and paths to review on a way forward for the club to improve its building infrastructure. It is noted that the committee wants the membership to determine which path to take and that the committee will then research that one path alone and report back with any issues or concerns that may cause a change in direction. This is NOT a vote to determine how much money will be spent for either option. It is a request from the committee to the membership to determine what option to review and once that vote is done, only that option will be reviewed unless issues or concerns prompt a question on the path taken, at which time, the committee will go back to the membership with options and another vote. After reviewing several paths, it appears that we now have two options based on dialogue via the SEMARA email list and discussions with several SEMARA members:

**Option A: Replace the entire building with a new building.
Material make-up of the new building would most likely need to
be steel due to cost.**

Advantages:

- SEMARA gets a complete new building and infrastructure that will age at the same rate because the entire building was replaced versus the infrastructure aging at various rates if the existing building was kept and an extension to the existing building is completed.
- It eliminates difficulties in trying to put a metal structure building connected to a wooden structure building.
- It allows the club a fresh start with no work required to the existing building.
- It will automatically get the building infrastructure up to modern day building codes.

Disadvantages:

- Cost of the building may require the club to wait an additional period of time before implementation including removal of the deteriorating radio room hut and could cause a delay in the overall project or members may be unwilling for the club to spend this much money on a new building.

NOTE: Carl-K1KID and his son Glenn have estimates where the cost is considerably less than what the committee has stated for a smaller metal

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building. We'd like to get these quotes for review and that may make this point mute.

- Members may not want to replace the existing wooden building infrastructure given club members worked on putting the existing building in place and it is not in terrible condition though the building is in need of some work.
- Members may not like the esthetics of a completely new steel building.
- Members may have to meet in another meeting place when work takes place to replace the entire building for some period of time until the construction is complete.

Option B: Tear down the radio room hut and move the radio equipment into the existing building and build an addition that ranges from doubling the footprint of the existing building to some smaller addition while doing some level of repair work on the existing building. (Add-on could be either wood or steel)

Advantages:

- Work could begin immediately on getting rid of the radio room hut before someone gets hurt by the rapidly deteriorating condition of the building and moving the radio equipment inside the meeting hall temporarily.
- Cost of doing an add-on building versus replacing the entire building could potentially be considerably less than replacing the entire building.

Note: Carl-K1KID and his son Glenn's price estimates could influence what amount of savings there is here.

- Allows the club to continue to meet at the clubhouse with minimal impact to club activities.
- Would satisfy those concerned about losing the esthetics of a wooden building and meeting hall and sentimental value of having the existing wooden building that members built as part of the club lost.

Disadvantages:

- The existing building would be older than the add-on building causing a concern that the club may need to face a similar operation to what it is

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- doing today for the radio room hut 20-30 years from now to replace the meeting hall area.
- There would be potential difficulties in adding a steel/metal building to the wooden building. These would not be insurmountable but they would be an issue and a disadvantage.
 - If only an add-on building is done and the meeting hall had to be replaced in the future, the cost of replacing the meeting hall would most likely be more expensive than it is today.
 - There is a potential issue that the existing building could have significant difficulties getting up to modern day codes if it is not totally replaced.