



SEMARA

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



BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by SEMARA President, Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD. Nineteen (19) members and zero (0) guests were present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary position is vacant. Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC substituted to take tonight's minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the February business meeting minutes as posted on the bulletin board at the SEMARA clubhouse.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SEMARA Treasurer, Michael J. McDonald, KB1NB reported that there was a net loss of \$1,765 since January 18th due to market decline. 70% is invested in bonds, while 30% is in stocks. The biggest monthly expense was the electric bill, which was \$335. Total assets are \$179,900, excluding a \$12,000 payment received from Blue Sky Tower. An investment discussion followed regarding inflation and the current market conditions. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to refer the report to audit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Chairperson, Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV reported that everything was okay at the club the last time he checked. He reminded everyone to please turn off the lights when leaving the club. They were recently left on for about three days.

- **SCHOLARSHIP**

Nothing to report.



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- **TECHNICAL**

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD reported that he recently met with Blue Sky Tower. He had concerns with some of the work that was done on the tower. They removed all the former Sprint antennas and equipment, however in the process, our 220 MHz repeater antenna was moved to the south leg of the tower. It does not appear to have affected the repeater, although it is now about three feet away from another repeater antenna. He has requested that the antenna be placed back where it was, as it should have never been moved.

Marcel discussed the condition of the SEMARA driveway. Due to the winter weather, it is in poor condition, resulting in chronic mud and ice. He hopes to hear back about rehabilitating and grading from the street to the rear tower. On the positive, it was noted they did a good job clearing the driveway and handicapped parking spots after the recent major snowstorm.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- **ARES, RACES, SKYWARN**

Edward A. Caron, KA1RSY stated that the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has hired a meteorologist. The ARES group on Cape Cod also had a successful drill a couple weeks ago. The RACES group on the cape, however, is no longer having voice drills on the first Monday of the month. They are now using Winlink, a global radio email system, to allow all-day check-ins. Ed notes that this technically defeats the purpose of running a drill.

- **RADIO EVENTS**

Nothing to report.

- **REPEATER**

Chairperson Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC reported that all is well.

- **WEB**

Chairperson Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC reported that a new WordPress theme has been installed. SEMARA.org has been facelifted, however the content and menus are generally the same. Some enhancements include scrolling club announcements clickable at the top, recent Eastern Massachusetts ARRL news posts on the sidebar, and streamlined post categories.



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RATIFICATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

An application for SEMARA membership was received from John J. Regan, KC1PRQ of Sagamore Beach, MA. He is an Amateur Extra, ARRL member and a retired environmental engineer. The application was received without the required initiation fee. Marcel, W1MLD will reach out to John to rectify this. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the application and to act on it at the April business meeting, pending receipt of payment.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott R. Smith, KE1CN revisited LED lighting for the clubhouse. It was noted that the current fixtures have ballasts, and the bulbs are non-standard single prong florescent tubes. Marcel, W1MLD noted that Mass Save, an Eversource partner, may be able to qualify us for rebates on LED energy-saving lighting. Retrofit kits were mentioned, as they are cheaper than replacing the whole fixture. Marcel will investigate our options with MassSave and report back.

Joseph A. Barros, K1EZ presented preliminary information on live video production equipment. This would allow us to continue streaming club meetings live from the SEMARA clubhouse post-COVID. One recommendation is the Blackmagic Design ATEM Mini (Pro) HDMI live stream switcher. It supports up to four video feeds and two audio channels. The standard model is about \$300 and the Pro version includes some extra features for about \$500. Handheld or dome cameras and various fixed or portable microphones would have to be purchased as well. There are some YouTube videos that demonstrate this, and it appears easy for one person to operate. Some further research needs to be done; however, this appears to be a viable option.

NEW BUSINESS

ARRL Field Day 2022 will be held on the last weekend of June. Marcel, W1MLD stated that we can probe for further interest to determine if we want to participate.



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FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Considering the vacant secretary position, Robert B. Kelley, K1KVV spoke toward the basics of being a good secretary. That includes recording what happens at the meeting, the motions made and the results of said motions.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD announced that ARRL New England Division Vice Director, Phillip E. Temples, K9HI will be visiting the club at our April business meeting. He will be presenting the association with a recognition for being affiliated with the ARRL for 75 years. Four or five volunteers will be needed to clean and dust, plus move furniture, tables and chairs ahead of the floors being professionally cleaned. The consensus was to have a work party on a Saturday or Sunday morning later this month. Marcel will send out an email and make an announcement soon.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD noted that the hex beam antenna hardline is not yet routed into the radio room building. It must come down the tower and then come around the side of the building and then back up into the wiring harness. He needs some help with the ladder and cannot do it alone. It would be ideal to get this done during a proposed work party.

Marcel L. Dumont, W1MLD thanked Armand F. Augustine, W1BUG for his years of service as SEMARA Secretary. He had resigned due to health issues effective March 1, 2022. Nominations were then opened with one member nominating Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC. Rick accepted the nomination tentatively, pending no conflicts with his work. After no further takers, Marcel closed nominations until the April business meeting.

ADJURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Cabral, W1RJC
Acting SEMARA Secretary



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BUSINESS MEETING ROSTER

Thursday, March 3, 2022

- Nineteen (19) Members Present:

CALL SIGN	NAME	POSITION
W1MLD	Marcel L. Dumont	President
AG1Y	Jean P. Chiron	Vice President
KB1NB	Michael J. McDonald	Treasurer
KA1YFV	Martin F. Jordan	Board of Directors
K1AHA	Richard J. Halliwell	
K1EZ	Joseph E. Barros	
K1KVV	Robert B. Kelley	
K1PGS	Paul G. Sadeck	
KA1RSY	Edward A. Caron	
KA1YFV	Martin F. Jordan	
KC1MUC	Brian C. Backlund	
KC1OCH	Ryan L. Mendonca	
KE1CN	Scott R. Smith	
KJ1L	Richard M. Sadeck	
W1BUG	Armand F. Augustine	
W1BZJ	Michael Ponte	
W1MKA	Timothy J. Brown	
W1RJC	Richard J. Cabral	
WA1GXV	Lawrence J. Ferreira	

- Zero (0) Guests Present