

Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Virtual General Meeting
19 August 2020

1. Welcome to the HARC virtual monthly meeting for August 19, 2020:

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Brian, VA1CC at approximately 1910.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda: A request was made to accept the agenda as presented by Brian, VA1CC, 14 out of 20 approved the agenda with the rest abstaining, Zoom polling yielded 78% acceptance.

3. Roll Call: Approximately 20 members and visitors via Zoom were visible on screen. Hello to Jim Flowers in Vancouver BC, VE1JIM and Don Mosher, VE1DRM HRM EMO.

4. Report of any Silent Keys: The following amateurs have passed since the last club meeting,

Dennis, VE9DB

Bert, VE1ANL

Shawn, VA1VO

Gene, VE9ORR

Clay, VE1IP

George. VE1XS

5. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2020 as printed in the Reflector:

Corrections were provided, a motion was made by Bill, VE1MR to approve the minutes, seconded by Tim, VE1TIM, no errors or omissions noted, Zoom polling yielded 14 of 19, the motion carried.

6. Correspondence: Brian VA1CC gained access to Station 50, no correspondence had been received.

7. President's Report:

Brian, VA1CC reported that the club could have met at Station 50 but due to Covid concerns went virtual via Zoom instead. Brian reported that Murray has been cleaning house at the QSL Bureau. Please get hold of Murray, VE1BB to check your balance and provide funds for him to be able to mail you your cards. Brian reported that a Zoom boom will be provided for the club's use to replace antennas at Cowie Hill. A work party will be assembled. The Club is looking for two club positions to be filled. They are Membership Chair, and Safety Officer, Jim Calvesbert, VE1PPA and Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PK are stepping down, Thank you for your service! Please contact Brian if you are interested in either position. Both fellows will help you with the transition.

8. Treasurer's Report:

Bill, VA1ALW, gave a detailed report of the monthly income and expenses. A motion was made by Bill, VA1AWL to accept the report. Bill, VE1MR seconded the motion, Zoom polling yielded 17 of 21, the motion carried. Please get any receipts for reimbursement into Bill as the end of the fiscal year is approaching.

9. Committee, Event and Special Projects Reports:

1. Station Manager Report - Don, VE1DTR reported that he, Greg VE1GFX, and Fraser, VE1WO need to get together on site to go over the RigPi enrollment procedure for operation of the remote station by qualified members of HARC. Don Mosher, HRM EMO director asked that Don VE1DTR submit a request to Brian so he (Don Mosher) can get the Station 50 access approved. Bill VE1MR reported the Cowie Hill repeater site antennas and feed lines are in need of attention. This includes checking and replacing some of the feedlines, making sure the feed lines are properly identified, replacing antennas as required for VHF/UHF frequencies, opening up connectors to verify feedline integrity and antenna performance. An antenna, if defective, would be replaced with a new duo band Sinclair to improve reliability. Don Mosher suggested a tower loading needs to be carried out if there are additional antennas and feed lines being added to the existing tower. This should include both dead load & wind loading increases. The existing tower is 70 feet in height. A work plan needs to be submitted for approval addressing safety, Covid Plan, work steps & estimated task duration.

2. RAC affiliation renewal: Brian, VA1CC requested that HARC rejoin RAC at \$27.95 plus HST, Bill, VE1MR moved to do so, Roger, VA1RST seconded, there were no objections, the motion carried.

3. Club Site Access at Station 50: The club is a 3rd tier response group and will be allowed access at a group size of 10. Don Mosher said this is the current status of opening up public facilities. It is quite a paper work process to get this set up. This is for protection of First Responders and operational readiness. Don Mosher, VE1DRM will let Brian, VA1CC know when approval is given.

10. Round Table - Member News: the brief sharing of important personal news:

Don Mosher reported that the Dartmouth site main tower antenna was damaged and hanging speared through the tower. A temporary antenna is mounted off the building until a replacement antenna can be installed. It has been ordered. The Station 50 tower for the satellite antennas needs to be installed at Sheet Harbour to resolve a communication problem. A replacement tower for Station 50 will be ordered for HARC next year. Fraser, VE1WO discussed antenna alignment issues as there are com problems during Operation Handshake between Station 45 and Dartmouth. This is a private line on 900mHz to allow the EMO's to communicate and not tie up the main comm channel. The 900mHz antenna on the Spicer building needs to be checked for alignment. A replacement building for Cowie Hill repeater will not be under consideration this year. There is space for a Zoom Boom at Cowie Hill by setting up in the parking lot adjacent to the tower. The tower is 5 feet from the fence. The north side of the tower may be challenging to reach, Though the antennas are located on the west and south sides, a good look will be had of the tower and antenna locations. Don Mosher reported on getting agreements for space, cable runs, antennas installed for EMO in the three rural hospitals in HRM, Twin Oaks Memorial in Musquodoboit Harbour, Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital in Sheet Harbour, and Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital in Middle Musquodoboit. The operation kits and then setup in those locations when needed. Don also recommended to not self deploy during an event. Wait for the request. There will be EOC training 101 made available for new volunteers and a refresher for existing EMO volunteers.

11. The EOC is available again for training and limited to 10 people including the instructor. Don reported that there is a desperate need for radio operators in the Sheet Harbour, Eastern Shore and Musquodoboit Valley areas. Please have your equipment serviced and fuel on hand to operate your station in an emergency fashion as we enter the September-October hurricane season. Be aware of proper vocabulary protocol & proper use of assigned call signs, not your RAC call. Don reported that Barry is in improving health and busy with projects., Bill, VE1MR reminded that not everyone is a member of HARC or HATS and should not be self activating. The amateurs need to self police when an emergency situation arises. Bill, VA1ALW asked about Windows 10 updates causing serial port issues after an update. There was discussion about Zombie ports in Windows via a Google search and or taking the PC into Brilliance PC service on Kempt Road. There was a question regarding the Winlink operation. It was noted that the system had been down but is now back up.

12. Search and Rescue:

Dave George, VE1AJP reported they were in the Gaspereau Valley mountain area searching for a lost dementia person. There were com issues on TMR due to terrain even with a mobile TMR repeater station brought in. Cell phone coverage in the area is spotty as well depending on the common carrier. Other folks with keen eyes shared information and the person was found. A dementia patient outfitted with tracking lifesaver bracelet was lost in Bedford. The tracking people were on site in 10 minutes and the bracelet found in 12 minutes using the tracking equipment. A call came in for a lost blueberry picker in a rugged area around Lake Echo. The picker came out on his own and was picked up by one of the search team's transport vehicle. Dave shared additional stories regarding hornets.

13. Education: Jason, VE1PYE reported that RAC extended the sign up time for the Basic course.

14. Motion for Adjournment: Bill, VE1MR was motioned to adjourn, meeting adjourned approx 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Stein, VA1RST, HARC Secretary