

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024

Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):

Maury Mechanick	David Lee
Kim Baumgartner	Richard Rankin
Roger Cochetti	Geza Serenyi
Denis Curtin	
Dan DiFonzo	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the May 7, 2024 meeting.

Treasurer’s Report and Membership Update

The Treasurer’s Report covered the time period from May 7, 2024 through August 13, 2024. Expenses for 2024 year to date came to \$3769 (web development expenses; P.O. Box rental; liability insurance; and Word Press/Constant Contact fee) and income came to \$354, reflecting dues payments for 16 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account was \$59,762 and total assets were \$67,508, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account.

LMCO Benefits

No issues regarding LMCO benefits were noted.

Website and Web Hosting Arrangements.

The improvements intended to improve the ability of members to access and use the website and for website administrators to update and manage the website have been made.

Status of the I Remember COMSAT Project/ and Wikipedia Update and COMSAT Labs Building Status

Work on first edition of the I Remember COMSAT Project is nearly complete and should be available on-line on the COMARA website shortly. Efforts to correct the current Wikipedia page on COMSAT is ongoing. COMARA is continuing to interface with Montgomery County planning officials to provide additional information to them on the historic significant of the research conducted at COMSAT Labs with respect to the development of the satellite industry as well as other technological developments in the telecommunications arena. *(Secretary’s note: A submission to Montgomery County Planning Board on Perspectives on the Historical Significance of the Research and Development in Satellite Telecommunications Undertaken at COMSAT Laboratories was submitted on September 16, 2024, and is not available on the OCMARA website).*

Planning for 2024 Social Events: Annual Meeting and First Wednesday Events

Based on a realistic assessment of our memberships’ overall mobility status, coupled with the limited attendance at the last in-person annual meeting, the Board decided not to hold an in-person annual meeting this year but simply to have a virtual annual meeting, which would be held on September 22, 2024. Details about the meeting will be sent to all COMARA members. Based on an invitation from Maury Mechanick, the Board agreed to have an in-person Board meeting following the annual meeting, which will take place on September 24, 2024, at his home. Given the success of the most recent First Wednesday of December event, the Board reaffirmed the desire to hold the event again in December 2024, specifically Wednesday, December 4. Dan DiFonzo agreed to contact Woodside Deli to coordinate arrangements.

Board Nominations 2024-2027

The three Board members whose terms are expiring in 2024, Maury Mechanick, David Lee and Richard Rankin, all agreed to start for election for another three-year term and that slate was endorsed by the COMARA Board.

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The next Board meeting will take place as an in-person meeting at the home of Maury Mechanick on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 11:30 am.

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 pm.

Submitted by: Maury Mechanick