



BEDFORD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

PO Box 26, Everett, PA 15537

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Meetings take place at 7:30PM on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Bedford County Courthouse, 200 Juliana St, Bedford, PA.

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 4 November 2021

A meeting of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society was called to order at **1930** hours within Room #**303** of the Bedford County Courthouse Annex by **President Zachary Pepple** and a quorum was declared.

In attendance were (17): KB3DFZ, KC3FOZ, W4NMP, WB3JEK, KB3UEK, W3DRW, KC3HKZ, KC3NAF, N2XRE, KC3DNB, N3EYF, KC3KHK, KC3NFD, W3SF, KA3UDR, KC3QOD, KE3ZT

President Zachary Pepple requested that KB3DFZ read **October** minutes. Motion to approve was made by **KC3NAF** and seconded by **KC3FOZ**. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report presented by **KC3DNB**. **Steve** discussed various checks received, checks issued and cash deposits. The ending balances are:

Petty Cash	\$-
Checking Account	\$286.49
Savings Account	\$7,621.12
Total	\$7,907.61

A motion to approve was made by **KB3DFZ**, seconded by **KC3KH**. Motion carried. The full treasurer's report is on file.

OLD BUSINESS

REC Tower Lease. Members discussed the proposed lease agreement for the REC tower.

Due to the legal and financial concerns, BCARS Secretary (KB3DFZ) has added a background summary covering multiple meetings and repeater team discussions.

Background Summary: BCARS Access to the Bedford County towers had been blocked for 6 months from November 2020 till May 2021. BCARS officially requested permission to mount new antennas on Martin Hill in June 2021, and this required an intermod study which ultimately delayed us from June through the end of August 2021. While Bedford County EMA is in charge of the towers, they defer all approvals like this to their vendor, CommPros.

BCARS knew of an unused tower on Martin Hill owned by Rural Electric Coop (REC) and had even considered gaining use of it in the past when attempting to put the 146.790 repeater up at Martin Hill. After experiencing the above-mentioned delays for the county tower, in July KB3DFZ asked K3QNT to approach REC about full access to the tower in order to deploy our 6M repeater. A meeting was held in August, REC responded positively to a \$1/year lease and said they would draw up a lease agreement.

BCARS received permission from CommPros to mount antennas on county tower end of August, BCARS voted in September to put 4 antennas (2x 6meter, 2x 2M) on the county tower, while still pursuing the REC agreement as an option.

The REC lease was provided to BCARS in time for the October meeting. There were several issues raised, mainly the short terms of the lease favoring REC, the fact that liability insurance was purchased for \$500 prior to the lease being discussed or approved by members, and the lease may not allow us to setup a sublet or other arrangement with Crowsnest for Internet access. Additionally, since BCARS ultimately did receive permission to use the county tower, no repeater projects are in the works to make use of the REC tower.

(End Background Summary)

Many concerns were raised regarding potential financial risk to the club, concerns about the condition of the tower, as well as the electrical service. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that we move forward with the lease, but we do need to get a good estimate of costs to bring the tower and building to operational status and approval. To summarize, we would need to know both the cost to fix the tower and to pass an electrical inspection before proceeding with either one, as well as any other repairs that may be needed.

Additionally, some members desire to make modifications to the lease such as a multi-year term, modifying paragraph 1 to allow for non-exclusive use, recovery of repair costs should the lease agreement be terminated within the first year.

KC3NAF motions for BCARS to accept the lease on a conditional basis and proceed with an investigation period through June 2nd (the date of BCARS June meeting) to further determine the work needed, associated costs and any changes BCARS would desire to the lease agreement. No club funds are to be expended on this project without membership approval. Motion seconded by W4NMP. Motion carried.

Potential Tower Uses: If BCARS moves forward with the tower, there are several possible uses that BCARS can pursue, including but not limited to: 1) APRS digipeater. BCARS had previously purchased gear for an APRS station to install at Martin Hill but never got an antenna mounted. This gear is currently operating at N3EYF's QTH. 2) A digital DMR/DSTAR/Fusion capable repeater. This is brought up every so often, but BCARS has not had the means (Internet, tower space) to pursue in the past. 3) An additional 220/440 repeater. 4) Additional datalink/gigahertz equipment to support members in Chaneyville.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations. The following nominations were made for office: KB3DFZ for secretary, KE3ZT for activities manager, and W3DRW for 1-year trustee. KB3DFZ motioned to close nominations. Seconded by KC3FOZ, motion carried.

Winter Field Day January 29th-30th. Sufficient members expressed interest in taking part in Winter Field day, possibly at Camp Living Water if a cabin is available. KB3DFZ motioned that BCARS will perform this as a group if a suitable location can be secured. Seconded by KC3NAF. Motion carried.

VE Session and Workshop. KB3DFZ reminded the club of our upcoming VE session and Workshop on Saturday November 6th. The VE Session starts at 9:30AM and the workshop will start at 10:30 or the completion of the VE session.

KB3DFZ provided an update on the **Martin Hill repeaters.** A trip was made on November 2nd. Our climber was not able to make it that day, but KB3DFZ and KC3NAF did prepare the grounding and lightning protection. Climbing is scheduled again for November 9th.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **2035** hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hogenmiller

John Hogenmiller, KB3DFZ
BCARS Secretary