

Fluvanna County Radio Control Flying Club

Special Board Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2024

Call to order

President Bill Sykes called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM on Friday, 2nd February 2024 at Cuppa Joe's coffee shop in Palmyra.

Those in attendance

Dave Beazley; Brad Braut; Mac Derry; Dave Eames; Randy Smith; Bill Sykes.

Review of the Agenda

1. Review of the club meeting and actions required
2. Review of the 2024 AMA Charter documents
3. Decide on the process to update our Constitution and Bylaws
4. Any other business

1. Review of the club meeting and actions required

As vice president Irv Fehlberg was unable to attend this special board meeting, he asked Dave Eames to convey his thoughts on the electrification opportunity to the Board. Irv's opinion is as follows:

- He does not think electricity is needed
- Turbine airplanes fly fast and will not be able to stay within our FRIA boundary
- Electricity will not attract more people at the field
- In summary, he does not think electrification of the field is necessary and that we should not accept the Shaw Wilcox consortium's offer to pay for electrification

Bill followed up by noting that the Hannover RC Club and the Valley RC club have great events that are well attended and neither of them have 120V at their fields.

Brad asked for clarification regarding our flight boundaries, particularly in relation to turbines.

Dave Beazley noted at the club meeting 6-8 people out of 36 members (almost 1/3rd of the club) would be prepared to pay for electrification. He also commented on the way we are operating as a BoD. Dave was also informed that after the meeting, several members were flying there and the consensus was that we (the BoD) were not going to approve electrification. Dave pointed out that this was not necessarily the case and that we needed to conduct a survey of the members before we made any decision. Dave reminded us that we do need to grow the club and at the same time embrace our welcoming reputation to all newcomers and their model airplane and/or RC car types.

Mac discussed the fact that the potential new members suggested they could organize between 10-15 events per year. It was agreed that this was not feasible, but if they could organize 2-3 sanctioned fund raising events per year, that would be very helpful. Dave Beazley suggested that we organize a workday and see how many of the new members participate. If we do this, we need to have a clear idea of what we want to do and organize the volunteers into small work groups. Some needed field improvements include: relocating and installing the windsocks; installing new safety fences; increasing the diameter of the control line circle; and a general clean up and discarding unwanted items from the shed. Dave suggested that we should

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try to sell the generator that Irv donated to produce some cash for the club that could be used to offset the cost of electrification.

Bill noted that he is not overtly opposed to electrification if these new members want to pay for it. He also noted that Shawn Wilcox brought in the largest new influx of new members we have seen in quite some time. Our club is not on the beaten track, so we are going to need something to attract new members.

We then discussed the needed club survey and some of the potential survey questions:

1. Would you like to see electrification at the field yes/no
2. Would you be prepared to contribute \$ yes/no
3. If so, how much?

Someone needs to draft a list of survey questions and circulate for comment. We agreed that we should use the free version of Survey Monkey (Dave Eames has the free version and will check on its limitations). It was also agreed that the priority is to upgrade the safety fences and pilot stations before we embark on an electrification project.

The next steps in this process are:

1. We need to confirm with Fluvanna County that we can bring CVEC power to the field and whether we can bring it above ground or will have to bury it. Bill agreed to contact the County engineer to answer these questions.
2. We should then refine the cost estimates for the total project, including the volunteer club manpower to offset costs as far as possible.
3. We then need to create and distribute the survey with an additional question asking who would be prepared to organize a sanctioned club event specifically to raise funds of electrification. The difference of the estimated cost and the funds raised from this event would come from member donations. This “electrification event” should be separate from the wings and wheels event that we are trying to organize with the Lake Monticello Fire and Rescue Squad.

If we accept the offer to pay for electrification, we should remind our new members about our club restrictions (e.g. no turbines and no overnight parking except for AMA sanctioned events).

We then need to consider the monthly \$60/month minimum CVEC charges. We would need 12 new members to cover this cost unless we raise the club dues.

2. Review of the 2024 AMA Charter documents

We discussed the upcoming requirement and who we should declare as the club officers, the safety coordinator, and the two directors at large. So for the purposes of completing the AMA Charter Documents we will declare the following positions:

President – Bill Sykes; Vice President – Irv; Treasurer – Dave Beazley; Secretary – Dave Eames; Safety Coordinator – Bradley Braut; Directors at Large – Mac Derry and Wayne Nye

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3. Bylaws and Field Rules Update

Brad described the process he would use to update the field rules and the bylaws and that he would circulate them to the BoD for amendments and approval and then at that point we would communicate to the club membership that these had been updated.

Bill also offered to reach out to local RC clubs and ask them to share their bylaws and field rules with us. Dave Eames also noted that he has provided the Rivanna RC Club bylaws which are simpler than ours.

We did discuss the length of service of each board member and agreed this should be defined in the bylaws and would be defined in time for the next election in November 2024. It was agreed that the bylaws should make sure that not all of the BoD members come up for election at the same time. Dave Eames explained the process for November 2024 when all BoD positions come up for election.

4. Any Other Business

Following the meeting, Dave Eames summarized the action items shown below:

Action	Assignee	Status
1. Contact Fluvanna County and seek approval for CVEC electrification either above ground or buried	Bill Sykes	
2. Contact Fluvanna County and seek approval to install a chain link or other safety fence	Bill Sykes	
3. Refine the cost estimate for complete CVEC electric installation with volunteer help	Dave Beazley	
4. Prepare a draft Survey Monkey survey for approval by the BoD (to be released only after 1 & 3 complete)	Dave Eames	
5. Prepare a revised draft of the bylaws and the field rules for approval by the BoD	Bradley Braut	

Just before the end of the meeting there was a short discussion of the type of fence we would need. Chain link was considered. Milton uses an aluminum fence. Bill Sykes agreed to add this to his questions for the Fluvanna Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dave Eames.