

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2025

Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):

Maury Mechanick	David Lee
Kim Baumgartner	Geza Serenyi
Roger Cochetti	
Dan DiFonzo	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the minutes from the March 25 meeting.

Treasurer's Reports and Membership Update

A Treasurer's Report was submitted covering the time period from March 25, 2025 through July 15, 2025. Expenses for 2025 year to date (July 15, 2025) came to \$1306 (P.O. Box rental; website hosting; Constant Contact fee; liability insurance) and income came to \$330, reflecting dues payments for 12 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account as of July 15, 2025 was \$64,215 and total assets were \$72,449, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account.

LMCO Benefits

No issues regarding LMCO benefits were noted.

Website and Web Hosting Arrangements.

With the addition of the I Remember COMSAT materials to the website and the efforts of Kim Baumgartner to provide periodic industry developments as a feature on the website, efforts continue to make the website of more interest and use to COMARA members. To date, only a couple of additional contributions have come in to the I Remember COMSAT portion of the website, and efforts will continue to encourage additional contributions.

Wikipedia Update; Preservation of Labs Building and Other Historical Matters

Work on updates to Wikipedia entry for COMSAT Corporation and possible creation of a Wikipedia entry for COMSAT Labs is ongoing. COMARA is continuing to interface with Montgomery County planning officials to provide additional information to them on the historic significance of the research conducted at COMSAT Labs, including a written submission addressing the historical significance of COMSAT Labs and the Clarksburg site. While the historic preservation staff within Montgomery County Planning Board have voiced support for a historic designation for the Clarksburg building, the development staff with Montgomery County Planning Board do not agree with that assessment, and it will be up to the full Planning Board to make a decision one way or the other. There will be further hearings on this matter by the Montgomery County Planning Board on September 26, and COMARA will continue to support efforts to insure that the historic significance of the work done at the COMSAT Labs facility is appropriately commemorated in whatever future plans for the site are developed. A message will be sent to all COMARA members on following the expected closing of the SES acquisition of Intelsat, given the significance of this transaction to all former COMSAT employees.

Report on Joint IRAA/COMARA picnic.

The annual IRAA/COMARA picnic was again held at Seneca Lake State Park on May 17. There were at least five attendees identified as COMARA attendees, although many of the Intelsat attendees are former COMSAT employees as well. The event continues to hold considerable interest for the attendees, with overall attendance in the range of 45-50 people.

Planning for 2025 Events: Annual Meeting and First Wednesday Event

Given that it appears clear that there no longer is sufficient membership interest in attending an in person annual meeting, a virtual Annual Meeting will be held in the October 2025 timeframe at a date and time to be determined. There continues to be strong interest in the First Wednesday of December event, with attendance at the most recent one close to 40 attendees, and with that level of interest, the event will again be hosted in 2025. Dan DiFonzo has agreed to taking the lead in making

arrangements with Woodside Deli in Germantown, MD, the venue for this event in recent years.

Board Nominations 2025-2028 (Roger Cochetti; Geza Serenyi)

The current term for two Board seats come to end in 2025, with the two incumbents, Roger Cochetti and Geza Serenyi, both expressing a willingness to each serve for another three-year term. The formalities for conducting the Board election to fill these two positions will be developed in connection with the arrangements for the virtual annual meeting to be conducted later this year.

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The next Board meeting will take place in the 4th Quarter timeframe at a date and location to be set.

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 pm.

Submitted by: Maury Mechanick