

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026 (11:30 a.m.)

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 July 15, 2025 meeting.

Treasurer’s Reports and Membership Update

Treasurer’s Reports were submitted covering the 2025 fiscal year and the time period from January 1, 2026, through April 14, 2026,. Expenses for 2025 year came to \$1236 (P.O. Box rental; website hosting; Constant Contact fee; liability insurance) and income came to \$1650, reflecting dues payments for 59 members. For the current fiscal year, expenses as of April 14, 2026 came to \$545 (website name domain fee and P.O. Box rental) and income came to \$400, reflecting dues payments for 13 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account as of April 14, 2026 was \$69,008 and total assets were \$78,431, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account.

The Board ,by unanimous vote of those present ,decided not to renew COMARA’s liability insurance once current coverage has expired in 2026 because COMARA was no longer hosting events for which liability coverage would be required. If the Board felt a need in the future to obtain liability insurance for a particular individual event, arrangements for such coverage would be made at the time.

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.

Status Update on the COMSAT Labs Building

The ongoing saga of the fate of the COMSAT Labs building, including the various submissions, oral and written testimonies submitted by COMARA on this subject, has been previously reported to the COMARA membership, as consideration of this issue progressed through the Montgomery County bureaucracy, culminating with the decision made by the Montgomery County Council in March 2026 not to accord the building a historic site designation. There had been a commitment made by the Planning Board and endorsed by the Montgomery Council that specific “mitigation” measures would be taken to ensure preservation of the legacy in some fashion if the building were to be demolished in part or whole, possibly including preservation of at least the front portico, as suggested by COMARA, even if the rest of the building were to be demolished. *[Secretary’s note: Subsequent to the COMARA Board meeting, the apparent complete demolishing of the building has commenced by the current owner and it does not appear as though any effort will be taken to preserve the portico. It remains unclear exactly what mitigation measures will be pursued particularly in light of the complete demolition of the building.]*

Review of 2025 Events and Planning for 2026 Events: IRAA/COMARA Picnic; Annual Meeting and First Wednesday Event

The December 2025 First Wednesday event was successfully held again at the Woodside Deli, attended by approximately 35 individuals. While actual reservations that came in advance of the event were somewhat lower, it appears as though this continues to be an event that attracts strong interest and attendance, irrespective of actual reservations sent in. With this level of interest, the event will again be hosted in 2027. 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.

Given that it continues to appear that there no longer is sufficient membership interest in attending an in person annual meeting, a virtual Annual Meeting will be tentatively scheduled to be held in the September/October 2027 timeframe at a date and time to be determined, although the Board reserved the ability to reassess this decision if subsequently sufficient interest in holding an in-person meeting were to surface.

The 16th Annual IRAA/COMARA picnic will be held on May 17, 2026, at Seneca Creek State Park, and additional information about the event will be disseminated to COMARA members once received from IRAA.

* * * * *

The next Board meeting will take place in the 3rd Quarter of 2026 at a date and location to be set.

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 pm.

Submitted by: Maury Mechanick