



## Fairfield League of Yankee Radio Controllers



### ZOOM MEETING MINUTES, OCT 7, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 7:33PM

Zoom meeting protocol: Protocol reviewed as side bar.

MEMBERS PRESENT: 22

ANY NEW MEMBERS OR GUESTS PRESENT? None

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: Motion by Gary Klein, Second Patrick Napolitano. Minutes were approved as submitted

COMMUNICATIONS: CORRESPONDENCE, UPCOMING EVENTS

- Paul Ivey is battling cancer, membership was asked to call when they have a chance
- Proposed FlyRC BBQ and Fly Day.... October 17. 2021
- FAA issued the new Knowledge Training & Exam (TRUST). ALL MOST COMPLETE IT AND CARRY THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION. See the AMA Web Site for FAA Trust link.
- Civil Air Patrol Day will be set for June of 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jay Wiener

- Financial Report...*Power Point Slide*
- Financial report accepted as submitted

MEMBERSHIP...Bob Motta

- We are presently 61 members. Dues will be collected first of November at the same rate as last year \$175.

SOUND AND SAFETY: Rich Margules

- Good year, no reported injuries.
- Members are still activating electrics on the tables.
- Don't carry armed electrics to flight box
- All high speed low passes beyond mid field

**FIELD MAINTENANCE:**

- Successful Field Day in April
  - Dethatched, aerated, seeded & fertilizing the entire field
  - Repaired the road.....need to do it again
  - Glen repaired the lean-to shed roof
  - Paul & Bob Blonski installed our new welcome sign on shed...looks great

- We had a good year, Joe G...successfully managed the mowing schedule and for the most part the field was mowed as required
- Field is in good shape. Skunks are digging it up a bit, but to date, no moles.
- Fall Work....We need to spread the remainder of the mole scam, fall fertilizer and road repair

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- New string and hedge trimmer was purchased at no cost to the club. Money was donated by 4 members. The trimmer works great and was well used this season.
- There are still hats available, they are in the shed. Send \$15 to Jay or leave in box in the shed with your name.
- **New Mower; FLYRC New Mower Proposal & Vote, the following email was sent to all Club members.**

*Updated business case for purchasing a new mower that we initially discussed a year ago, and again at last Wednesday's meeting. Please review below and feel free to share your thoughts with other Club members using our FLYRC Google group email account, by simply "replying all" to this email.*

*After you have decided, cast your vote by sending an email to Ron Faanes at [ronfaanesphd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ronfaanesphd@sbcglobal.net) by noon Thursday Oct 14. Make sure you add a subject and your name in the email so it's clearly identified.*

#### **DO NOT VOTE USING THE FLYRC GOOGLE GROUP EMAIL!**

**All votes are due before noon Thursday Oct 14.**

#### **Background**

1. *For many years we paid a Club member a modest fee of \$1,200 per year to mow the field. Three years ago that changed, and the membership took on the responsibility of mowing. At the time, we didn't have a mower. Fortunately, two members generously donated their used home lawn tractors.*
2. *We enjoyed 3 years use from these machines, but more importantly, the Club demonstrated we had the energy to mow the field ourselves. Both machines came to us at a critical time, have served us well and are now nearing end of life. Both experienced several breakdowns this year and required many hours of repair.*

#### **Why?**

1. *Both mowers are 42 inch Craftsman homeowner quality machines that came to us well used and are about 10yrs old. We enjoyed 3 years use from these machines, mowing about 1 acre, twice a week. Both machines experienced several breakdowns and required numerous repairs this year. We are fortunate to have a member (Will Casazza with Bob Milanese's help) volunteer to repair and maintain them, which is great, but unfortunately I believe Will has spent more time repairing these mowers than flying, and that's not right. These machines are nearing their normal end of life, and should be replaced so we don't continue to spend time/\$\$ on them. In addition to the improved reliability a new machine offers, we'll enjoy faster cutting time because of the larger deck (~50" versus 42")*

#### **How can we afford this?**

1. Overall, our Club is in a strong financial position. Each year we have been able to save some funds. These savings come from a combination of generous donations from Club members above the annual dues, the AMA field improvement grant, underspending the budget and having more members than anticipated in the forecasted budgets (example 2021 balanced budget was based on 50 members, we currently have 61). We also saved \$1,200/yr. by mowing the field ourselves for the last 3 years.
2. We project closing out 2021, after all our bills are paid, with about **\$9,000 in savings reserve**. We have presented a balanced 2022 Operations & Maintenance budget based on 55 members at our current dues. Looking forward, that allows us to purchase a new mower (for up to \$4,500) and have a **healthy reserve of over \$4,000 at the end of 2022**. So we have the money to buy a new machine, **with no increase in dues or additional \$\$ assessment to the Club members**.

#### **What machine?**

1. Several members have volunteered to help with the selection. While most would prefer a Zero Turn, we agreed a tractor would be suitable and easier for members to use. We agreed that a mid-grade tractor, a step above home owner entry grade and not a commercial grade, would be the best value for the Club. We also agreed it should have hydrostatic drive with about 50 inch deck, preferable 3 bladed and fabricated. We are considering John Deere, Cub Cadet, Husqvarna and Simplicity, or others that have the quality and features in our price range. Mowers in this category cost about \$3,500 to \$4,000, plus tax and fees. Unfortunately, because of the supply chain problems caused by the pandemic, there are no machines available now. At this point dealers are not able to project delivery schedules, but expect availability will improve this winter/spring. So our choice is open at this time and depends on several factors.

#### **FINANCING**

1. 0% financing maybe available, but is not needed. As described above, we have ample funds to buy the mow outright and **WILL NOT RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF DUES OR AN ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT**.

#### **Conclusion**

1. We propose the Club authorize up to \$4,500 to purchase a new mower as described above.

**A vote by email was tabulated. Twenty six members (26) members responded. The count was twenty five (25) for the purchase one (1) against. The results are available for any member to review, just contact Ron Faanes.**

#### **New Business:**

- Three possible in-person meeting places (listed below) have been identified and discussed. For the near term, our monthly meeting will continue on Zoom.
  1. VFW Danbury behind the Mall.
  2. Pettibone School
  3. Roxbury Town Hall
- The 2022 Budget was presented. The budget is based on 55 member, at our current annual dues of \$175, and would cover our 2022 operating expenses. The budget was passed after Gary Klein and Joe Giacone motioned to move the vote forward.

OPEN ACTION ITEMS:

50/50 RAFFLE: N/A

SHOW AND TELL:

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:52PM

Ron Faanes, Ph.D.

Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Faanes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.