

# November 2019 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:57pm.

There were (26) members present.

President Michael Holbrook opened by stating that the Board did meet in October and that topics discussed were: The Shelter Wiring and final steps - Tommy Cheek was assigned the task of wiring the Shelter.

The Minutes for the October meeting were approved by all members present.

Birthdays for November: Michael Donahue, Conward Johnson, Leo Whitman Jr., Gerald Simmons, Mark Pfaff.

Member Recognition: Adam Miller for doing a great job on the slab and more thanks went out to Chris Baker, Tommy Cheek and John Titus for their great efforts with the Shelter Project.

Mitch Foil, a new possible member is waiting on some details to get ironed out and when they do, he will be brought before the membership for a vote as a new member. Previous member Wade White was voted back into the club.

James Miller reported a total bank balance (after a handful of expenses that cleared) to be \$13,924.04. Michael spoke about the Shelter in that the total cost was \$14,038.27 that included the rock. He stated that even if we take out the rock, we are still \$762.46 over what we put into the shelter fund. He went on to say, looking back, the club planned for \$10,000.00 and that we went over by \$4,3827.00. Michael went on to stress that the club has got to do a better job at planning for a large project such as this even if we have to add 20% on top of the estimated cost to ensure we don't go over because all it would take is one rainy season and it would all be gone. He continued with an example by saying this year the club has taken in just over \$9,100.00 in membership. Assuming that we will do same next year, minus the mowing expenses that will be \$6000.00, minus another estimated \$4,000.00 for maintenance and we're already in the hole, not including all of the other expenses (port-a-john, emergencies, etc., etc..) proving that we would have to rely on the Events to carry us entirely. Michael also asked for everyone to please keep up with the club expense reports and check the reports because we (the board) are human and we don't want to make a mistake.

Michael stated that the Shelter fund went over our project fund balance by an amount of \$762.46, and the club has no official means to cover this amount. He then called for a vote to pull this amount from the general fund. A motion was made to move the money as suggested with a second. It was approved by all members present.

Michael also proposed a two-year loan for the \$8,000.00 that himself and Butch gave the club to be paid back at \$333.33 a month. He commented since Butch Pendergrass put forth the Guttering and his equipment free of charge to the Shelter Project that the first year's loan payments would be paid to him first and that the second year would be paid to himself (Michael). A motion & second was made to proceed as he proposed. It was approved by all members present.

The Treasury Report was approved by all members present.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ken Blackford and Rod Stauffer spoke to their efforts in trying to find a new venue for the Swap Meet during a new time window of January thru February. Ken stated that they looked all over Winston and Greensboro for a 20k sq.ft. space during those months and could not find anything that was available, let alone places costing 3 to 4 times as much. Ken stated that currently the building alone (not including tables and other fees) is \$850.00. They reported that we could step up to the Education Building at the Winston Fairgrounds for another \$400.00 during a select date in the January and February window, but it would be a real gamble. Rod added saying that table rentals outside the Winston facility were found to cost as much as \$9.00 per table compared to our current \$6.00 rate and it wouldn't include set-up. Rod stressed that they really think we should stay where we're at for another year and see if we can get it to grow by reaching out and advertising to the public more, like, the Career Center School System and the 4-H program. Ken talked about how he increased the emailing this year by contacting every club inside AMA District 4 that netted 154 clubs, saying that in addition to that in 2020 he will contact every club in every state up and down the East Coast. Ken said that he contacted the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, or tried to, and found that it wasn't available during our preferred time window but also could not even get an email reply for a quote as to how much it might have cost. Ken also mentioned contacting a really large church that had a large gymnasium to see if they might entertain the idea of letting a group like our club rent the space for a day and was told they would not want to bring in a large public group like this. Rod followed that he too had tried finding a church long ago and got the same kind of response. Michael mentioned that the biggest compliment he heard was the ability for people to be able to assemble a model and display it out in the open space in the middle. Michael followed by asking the membership if they thought they should continue with the same date and location. Ken Kayser added saying that for a 1-day (or half a day) event to bring in a \$1,000.00 is better than most 3-day events averaged out. It was decided to wait until January to vote on the actual date for 2020. It was asked if it would be possible to get other email listings from other local clubs who have sponsored a Swap Meet, especially if they are no longer hosting an event.

Mark Pfaff asked if the club would vote on the 2020 Heli Event dates of June 26 – 28<sup>th</sup>. All members present approved said dates.

It was reported that Tommy Cheek will be the CD for the 2020 Electric Event.

Butch Pendergrass Mentioned that they would like to move the War Bird Event up a day to June 17 – 21<sup>st</sup>. He added that the field will be released to open flying a little earlier, around noon or before on Sunday. All members present approved said dates.

George Welcome will give an update for the 2020 Giant Scale Event at the next meeting.

Michael asked the club if they were happy with the job Howard has been doing in mowing the field and was over-whelmed with a positive response from the room. Michael proposed to keep Howard on board and continue mowing for the whole year in 2020 at the current rate. Michael asked for a discussion about the topic. Ken Kayser asked about the equipment and thanked Howard for using his mower. It was asked what the club should do if something were to happen to Howard himself. Michael stated a backup mower and person is available if the need arises. All members present approved unanimously to keep Howard on board and continue as the Club's grounds keeper.

Michael went on to suggest that club should freeze any large spending until January or even February so we could wait and see what kind of membership the club might have at that time. Everyone agreed without having an actual vote.

Michael added that at the current time we do not have a provision in place to cover the maintenance on Howards mower, such as blades, but we certainly discuss it if necessary.

It was asked again about the possibility of leasing a mower with hopes that said mowers maintenance would be included in the cost. It was noted that you can do that, but there is certainly a fee for said service. Michael ended by saying that in his opinion it would be much better if the club purchased a mower that it actually owns and it could be paid-off over several years like the last time.

Charlie Lasley made a point that if membership dues are \$9,000.00 and that a mower and expenses could cost as much as \$14,000.00 that all events have got to pull through with 8k or 9k or else we could wind up in the hole.

Michael asked all members present to please try and get your membership dues in early this year so it will make budgeting a lot easier.

Michael continued by saying that Howard does have a friend that is willing help mow just in case Howard falls ill or cannot do it himself. It was mentioned that said friend would continue to do so until the club could find another solution.

Howard Bass thanked everyone who came out and supported events throughout the year, especially when it rained a lot, emphasizing the importance of event success.

Michael also asked the club to think about what and how many signs we should post up under the Shelter, saying that we do absolutely need some of the signs that talk about club rules, AMA Required, Video Surveillance, etc., etc. Michael said that we would bring this up briefly at the beginning of the December meeting just before the "Dirty Santa" game.

Adam Miller reminded the membership that the Fun-Fly will be on Friday 11/8 and Saturday 11/9 with Butch Pendergrass cooking 2-smoked Pork Butts for Friday night and Adam to cook the Chicken Stew on Saturday. Butch asked if someone was going to string some lights up under the Shelter. He went on to ask if someone was going to bring something else on Friday night, like a "Pot-Luck." Butch said to plan on 6:00 pm for the dinner while Adam said that if he starts the Stew at noon on Saturday that it should be done around 4:00 – 4:30 pm. The rumor that the large Bon Fire was going to be on the Flight Line was nixed, as it was confirmed that it would be slightly to the left of the current pile of wood.

It was asked how Bill Hamby was doing, as he in the hospital. It was asked if the club could vote on sending a card and flowers. Michael said that he would handle it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tommy Cheek talked about the Club Trainer Program that is offered through the AMA. Tommy said that he is now a Certified Instructor and that if someone wants to learn to fly they can go on Horizon Hobby's website and enter their zip code and search for a "Flight School" and pay Horizon \$20.00, giving them 3-months of AMA coverage. Tommy brought up a good point in that said new pilots will most likely want to continue flying with their 3-months of AMA coverage, but asked the membership what the club should do for these new potential members and pilots in terms of letting them fly out at the field. Michael suggested that since the individual would then have AMA coverage for 3-months that the club should do the same and give them the same grace period to fly out at the club, but not issue them a gate key. At the end of the grace period the individual would then be asked to join the club. Tommy followed by saying that when the individual signs up on Horizons website they are issued an activation code in which to get their AMA and that they are required to show an email with the activation code to instructor and that the date on the email is the beginning of the 90-day trial period. Tommy went to on to suggest that the club should have more than just one instructor and asked for others to please consider signing up as an instructor. Tommy said that it's easy to get certified as an instructor.

Randy Covington suggested having a removable Center Pavilion for event registration that could be taken down after each event to open-up more space throughout the rest of the time. Michael suggested tabling this topic for later.

The officers as nominated for the 2020 board were approved unanimously by all member present:

President - Michael Holbrook  
Vice President – Howard Bass  
Treasure – Michael Holbrook  
Secretary – Ken Blackford

Ken Blackford ran down the rules for the "Dirty Santa" game for the December meeting and Food Drive as follows:

For those wanting to participate, they should bring a gift valued of at least \$20.00 and bring at least (2) items of food (canned items, dry foods, but no perishables). Participants must bring food items, since the evening is mainly about the charitable cause, and not about the game. It was reminded that the more food items you bring, the better chances you will have at being the last man of the night to have the pick of the room and get the best gift. Ken said that he will take the food to the food bank around noon the next day as usual, followed by sending an email that afternoon with a report on how we did.

The 50 / 50 was finally won by Rod Stauffer who donated his share back to the club, totaling \$93.00.