

BOWIE SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Dan Lee opened the meeting at 12:40 PM.

Dick Henthorn briefed the attendees on change to the BSCC website [which will be made between now and Oct 8th]. The new URL is <http://www.bowieseniorcenter.org/BowieSeniorsComputerClub>, the old Comcast web pages at <http://home.comcast.net/~BSCClub/> will be moved to the new server which has been registered to Bowie Senior Center (Katherine White).

Dave Hackenberg and other discussed proposed Route 97 road construction which will involve destruction of a wooded area behind Tasker High School and complicate access to selected homes.

Bill Long asked for an explanation of what an “X-Box” is and how it differs from a computer. Don Searing described and explained.

Bill Long also asked for an explanation and discussion of Twitter, Tweets and hashtags. This led to an informative discussion of social media. Eric Hein provided a technical explanation of the 140 character limit on tweets and other cell phone text messages. Barbara Parthasarathy recommended “GCFLearnFree.org” as a reliable and useful source of information comparable to Wikipedia.

Eric Hein noted that the “timefreeze” application has not been successfully installed on the public computers as a substitute for the steadystate app previously used to prevent users from making changes to the installed files. Eris also described a simple 3-step logoff Windows log-off feature.

It was noted that Windows 8 and later will play iso files but not DVD disks, DVD disks being playable with Windows 7.

Bill Long related a recent experience with helping his school teacher daughter with home computer access the encrypted “Gradebook” database used by county schools to record student test results. Bill’s daughter’s login was not being accepted by her school’s secure server if she used Internet Explorer. Bill installed Firefox and that solved the problem thereby enabling his daughter to perform work at home that previously had to be done afterhours at her school. What Bill found out is that different browsers use different criteria for determining if an “https:” website’s security certificate is legitimate.

Jerry Kursban described an experience with ransomware. This was followed by a discussion of means of preventing ransomware infections and recovering.

Prepared by Bill Long
Secretary, Bowie Seniors Computer Club