

## **West Jersey Astronomical Society**

**Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2016**

**13 people in attendance, start 7:47 pm**

Here again at Virtua, the star watch for tonight at Van Zant has been cancelled for technical reasons. Some pre-illustration by Bernie, for the planets tonight with Stellarium. Trying to work the program so now some images from Roger, Venus and Moon, from last night. Then Mercury and Venus from Joe. Followed by a Mercury map from satellite. then Mars images from satellite, great quality. More of internet Mercury, surface detail. Roger has an article from Physics Today on possible moon formation. Talk of comets and potential impacts. Difficulty of seeing detail on planets, one needs practice. More detail of doing the seeing from Bernie. Back to Mars and phase illustration, features are pointed out. From Gary a question of orbit power to loop up. Back to Mars and rotation speed, more detail of Mars from illustration by Bernie. Year of Mars, sidereal and synodic. Favorable Mars time from one to another. Earth Moon distance change, how long to not get lunar eclipse anymore. More on Persied stream prospects, and other periodic comets. Lastly an old lens set from Val Gonzales. From Joe, heliacal rising of Sirius in the east, but first Joe has to subdue a loud member. From Gary, last total lunar eclipse will be in 500 million years. Bernie questions more on this.

Time to adjourn, 9:30 pm.