

# A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council, c/o Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897

www.westportct.net/ancc

**TO: ANCC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: JOHN REPICKY**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (April 27, 2005 – Greenwich)**

**Apr. 30, 2005**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Jim Cameron  
Easton: Leighton Jordan, Richard Seclow  
Greenwich: Jen Larkin, Stuart Reider, Paul Curtis  
New Canaan:  
Norwalk: Marge Costa  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford: Geza Ziegler, Mike Pensiero  
Weston: Bob Atkinson  
Westport: Hal Levy  
Wilton: John Repicky  
Cablevision: Chris Klimek, Tad Diesel

**1) Meeting began** at 6:12 pm with 9 towns represented. HL asked to amend the minutes of 3/23 to include the phrase “there is conjecture that” to DS’s statement in item 5. Voted: to approve the minutes of March 23, 2005. Approved minutes will be posted on the ANCC website.

**2) Treasurer's Report -**

Activity	Date	ANCC Account	Access Escrow
Opening Balance	3/23/05	\$11,287.07	\$55,698.36
Interest & Dep.		1.05	
Checks & Debits		79.00	25,131.38
Closing Balance	4/27/05	\$11, 209.12	\$30,566.98

JR reviewed the treasurer’s accounts. He noted that the escrow account balance of \$30,566.98 does not reflect the encumbrance for 2 grants that have already been approved. Deducting these two, plus the funds for the Access Awards program, the fund balance would be \$11,476.98. JR also reported that CV has not yet paid the \$2000 stipend for 2005. HL noted that invoices were sent on 1/5 and 4/5. The Treasurer’s report was approved.

**3) 2005 Access Support Budget and Supplemental Equipment Grants:**

There is a commitment from CV for a cash grant of \$100,000 to the ANCC. In addition, CV is working with ANCC officers on a program of direct equipment grants. HL asked JR for suggestions of possible equipment items which he then circulated in an e-mail to members. The group discussed the proposed items and some recommendations for alternatives were made. HL asked for a motion to create a subcommittee to pursue this program with CV. Motion passed: Unan. Paul Curtis, Bob Moran, JR, HL & DS will serve on the committee.

**4) By-Laws:**

HL reviewed the proposed changes in the by-laws. Changes were proposed in the name (Area Nine instead of Area 9); Article 3 section 5; Article 4 section 3; and Article 4 sections 5, 6, & 7 (6&7 are new additions). All members have been sent a draft copy via e-mail. There were questions about meetings being open to the public and attendance. HL noted that these are covered by statute. Since there were no changes in the proposed amendments and all members have already been noticed, these changes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

**5) PEG Issues:**

Are there any PSA days coming up? CK: Yes, in June.

**6) Dark Channels:**

The only new report on dark channels came from Norwalk. HL asked for input on how to proceed against towns that still have dark channels. MC Motion: To send letters to appropriate town officials notifying them of dark channel(s) in the town and asking for their intentions regarding the channel. The official will be notified that there is the possibility the channel would be taken away and a response is requested within 60 days. There was some discussion about particular situations, especially towns that may have changes in situation or governance. The response time of 60 days was discussed and agreed upon. Appropriate council members will receive a copy of the letter. Motion carried: Unan

**7) CT-N Coverage:**

As of 6/1, CT-N will have carriage on its digital tier. CT-N will also be made available 24x7 on the town Government Access channel. HL noted that there was resistance to having CT-N on the digital tier alone, since it is not available to all subscribers. Hal was not pleased to see CT-N on the G-channel as he does not believe it is appropriate. He noted that according to the franchise agreement, community access should have precedence over non-access programming, and that even a community bulletin board would take precedence. The question of how CV would cut CT-N in was not answered. Switching could be done at master control on a timed basis or at the local end by switching in either from the I-Net or from the digital feed with a converter. Some members argued vociferously for a separate analog channel for CT-N, thereby not impacting the G-channel. JC to Tad: How will you notify the towns of the new policy? TD: We have notified ANCC reps. If you want, we can notify mayors/selectmen. Members generally agreed with the distribution on the digital tier, but had mixed feelings about running it on the local G-channel. There was concern that CT-N would make it more difficult to expand government access programming, as any additional access programming would be perceived by some as taking away CT-N.

**8) 2007 Franchise Renewal (Docket #05-04-10):**

CV has notified the DPUC of their intent to renew their franchise (which expires on 10/31/07). CV has requested a 15 year franchise. CV is compiling a large variety of information and statistics to be used in their application. The DPUC will put out a RFP for a needs assessment. RS asked about CV's letter of intent. He asked that CV outline its risks and potential rewards in pursuing a franchise renewal. He would have preferred to see local data rather than national data as used in the letter of intent. HL noted that the franchise renewal only involves CV's CATV business, not their other services. The ANCC will have at least Intervenor status in this docket. A link to the existing franchise license can be found on the ANCC website. HL will keep members posted on filings.

PC pointed that Verizon is construction fiber to the home in Greenwich. They will be offering some type of VOD to the home. Does this qualify as a regulated CATV system? SBC is apparently going to offer a similar service. HL felt that the advisory council will either be involved with these services or everything will be non-regulated and the Council will be out of business. PC felt that the Council should be questioning the DPUC about this.

JC motion: That the ANCC contact the DPUC about Verizon's build and ask what involvement the Council may have in this operation. Approved: Unan.

**9) Annual meeting:**

GZ has secured Giovanni's for the annual meeting. HL will be sending out a link to a web form requesting choice of meal and any guests that members may be bringing (@\$36.50 per guest). JC stated that he was concerned about spending Council funds for a dinner. HL went over some of the reasons that members felt that the expense was not extravagant. Members will be given the opportunity to pay for their dinner.

**10) Other business:** None

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 pm