

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 (June 1, 2005 – Stamford)

June 9, 2005

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron
Easton: Leighton Jordan, Richard Seclow
Greenwich: Jen Larkin, Stuart Reider
New Canaan: Tony Thompson
Norwalk: Marge Costa, Victor Cromwell
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Bob Atkinson, Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman
Wilton: John Repicky, Carole Kleinfeld,
Library: Ernest DiMattia
Cablevision: Chris Klimek, Tad Diesel
Guests: Rad Stone, Dolly Curtis, Esther Ziegler

1) Meeting began at 6:32 pm with 9 towns represented. HL welcomed the members and thanked Geza Ziegler for making the meeting arrangements. Minutes of 4/27 were approved.

2) Treasurer's Report -

Activity	Date	ANCC Account	Access Escrow
Opening Balance	4/27/05	\$11, 209.12	\$30,566.98
Interest & Dep.		2,002.06	100,000.00
Checks & Debits		133.48	5,500.00
Closing Balance	6/1/05	\$13,077.70	\$125,066.98

JR reviewed the treasurer's accounts. He noted that the escrow account balance of \$125,066.98 does not reflect the encumbrance for 1 grant that has already been approved. Deducting this, plus the funds for the Access Awards program, the fund balance would be \$112,076.98. The Treasurer's report was approved.

3) By-Laws:

HL noted that the proposed By-Laws were circulated as required by the section on amendments in the current By-Laws. GZ moved that the Council vote on the proposed changes as a package. Motion carried. HL reviewed the changes. JF motion: Approve the amendments as presented. Motion approved: Unan

4) 2005 Access Grants:

DS motion: To accept the \$100,000 grant from CV and divide it equally between Govt Access and Ed Access. Motion approved: Unan.

5) Supplementary Access Equipment Grant:

HL and JR explained the proposed equipment grant designed to help access channels upgrade to DVD. Miles Rich is working on a package of equipment that will include a DVD player, interface for the Mini-T controller, and a digital video recorder with DVD burner. This item is ideal for recording meetings, since it eliminated the need to change tapes. HL explained that there will be an opportunity to opt-out for the few towns that do not need this equipment.

At the dinner break, members viewed a compilation of winning entries from the 1st Annual Educational Access Awareness Awards program. JR noted that the committee received 61 entries involving 119 students. Nineteen entries were recognized. Chris K. distributed a press release announcing the winners. JR thanked Chris Klimek and Candace McGovern for their efforts to make the program a success.

6) Dark Channels:

A draft letter has been prepared to mail to mayors, selectmen & superintendents regarding I-Net channels that remain dark. HL read the letter and it was approved. Letters will be sent in the near future.

7) CT-N Coverage:

CT-N is now on digital CH116 full time. On May 26 it went onto town G-channels. Representatives should contact CV to set the air times for local and CT-N programs. By Jan 1, 2007, CV will provide an expanded basic channel for CT-N. JC asked Tad why the 1/1/07 date was picked. Tad explained that CV needed more time to find an analog channel for CT-N. The federal must-carry requirements have a great impact on CV's basic spectrum. CV has at least 22 must carry stations, which is more than any other Connecticut CATV provider has to deal with. This is why it is so much more difficult for CV to find space for CT-N than other cable franchises. HL noted that it would be preferable to devise a means to allow the individual towns to control the switching between G-access and CT-N. Two possibilities were proposed: 1) run CT-N on the I-Net; 2) provide towns with a digital receiver to allow them to re-broadcast on the government access channel. Until such time as this becomes available, towns are asked to use the form provided by CV.

8) Franchise Renewal:

The DPUC has put out an RFP for a needs assessment. DPUC has requested comments from parties and intervenors by June 15. DS suggested requesting a meeting with the needs assessment firm and keeping the needs assessment separate from Area 2's assessment. HL pointed out that the major difference is the existence of a 3rd party provider in Area 2. DS reiterated that, while individual towns in Area Nine have received funding for their access operations, funding in Area 2 went to Soundview rather than the towns. He claimed that the rest of the state is jealous of Area Nine's E&G access funding. Although there are two docket numbers, the DPUC will try to combine the renewals in as many ways as possible. HL will submit comments to the DPUC and attempt to point out to the DPUC the uniqueness of Area Nine's situation. DS suggested that members e-mail HL with their personal "wish list" of items they would like to see in the franchise. Hal will collate the requests and present them to the Council.

9) Chairman's statement:

Hal Levy read his summary of the Council's year and views for the future. He noted that three members had perfect attendance at meetings this year: Bob Moran, John Repicky, Hal Levy

10) CV comments:

Tad Diesel complimented Hal on his report to the Council. He stated that we all work for the same goal: to provide excellent CATV service to our constituents. He looks forward to the coming year and appreciates the goals and spirit of the Council.

11) Other Business:

- HL noted that appointment letters will be going out soon.
- Tentative meeting dates: 9/7 Wpt; 10/19 Weston, 11/30 Darien, 1/4 Norwalk, 2/15 Wilton, 3/22 Stamford Library, 4/26 Greenwich
- Re: Verizon build-out in Greenwich: Verizon claims to be building a telephone system, not a video system and therefore does not need DPUC approval or a CATV franchise. JC pointed out that the Council should contact DPUC regarding the Verizon build as it is obvious that they intend to provide video over the system. TD pointed out that CV could not begin construction until they had a franchise in place.
- SR noted that his recent service problem was handled very well by the CV tech.
- C Kleinfeld: How do towns staff their G-channels? HL suggested she pole the members via e-mail.
- MC motion: To accept the Annual Report. Passed

Meeting adjourned: 9:04 pm