

CACSCC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2013
BCTV, Branford

The Cable Advisory Council of South Central Ct Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Minotti at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting Quorum: 7 Members / 4 Towns

Those present were: Mark Minotti & Michael Maturo, North Haven; Bill Biski, East Haven; Mary Bigelow, North Branford; Tom Dacey, Wallingford; Terry Cain & David Weinberg, Guilford; and John Bairos, Comcast Representative.

Those absent were: Mary Minotti, North Haven; Mary Lyons, Branford; J.T. Tenczar, North Branford; Joanne Wentworth, North Branford; Terri Fiondella, Guilford; Laura Parisi, Wallingford; and John Bairos, Comcast Representative.

Guests in attendance: Walter Mann, Branford, BCTV; Mike Streeto, EHTV Cameraman

Mark Minotti welcomed Walter Mann and thanked Branford for hosting this month's meeting. Walter said that he was happy to host the meeting and invited the Council to look around the facility.

Mark invited Mary Bigelow to introduce the Council's new members. Mary introduced Michael Maturo (North Haven), Terry Cain (Guilford), and David Weinberg (Guilford).

Mark moved on to a review of the previous meeting's minutes.

COMCAST REPORT (tabled due to absence of John Bairos)

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from February 28, 2013 were reviewed and the following corrections were made:

(page 1) “Those absent were: Mary Lyons, Branford; J.T. Tenczar, North Branford; Mike Maturo, North Haven.”

Correction: “Those absent were: Mary Lyons, Branford; J.T. Tenczar, North Branford; Mike Maturo, North Haven; **Scarpetti, Madison.**”

(page 3) Under Old Business: “WPAA & EHPA voted to change 60/40 to a per subscriber basis.”

Correction: “WPAA & EHTV voted to change 60/40 to a per subscriber basis.”

(page 4) Under Town Reports: “David Weinberg announced that GCTV went digital where he can access their programming from anywhere and gave Guilford’s Board of Edc access for school closings.”

Correction: “David Weinberg announced that GCTV went digital where **GCTV can schedule programming from anywhere and give the Town of Guilford and Guilford’s Board of Edc direct access for emergency announcements.**”

A motion from Tom Dacey, Wallingford, to accept the corrected minutes from the last meeting held on February 28, 2013. Mike Maturo, North Haven, second. Terry Cain, Guilford, abstained. Everyone else approved.

Mark turned the meeting over to Tom Dacey, Wallingford, for the Treasurer’s Report.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Tom Dacey, Wallingford, reported April Treasurer’s Report with the following balances:

Checking Account \$2359.52

CD Account \$14,649.66

Total Cash Assets \$17,009.18

Mark asked Tom whether or not these balances showed the checks that came in for the insurances. Tom responded that they did not, explaining that the checks have come in but that he does not have the checks from Madison or North Haven yet. Mark told Tom that he would give Tom the deposit slips later that week.

Mike Maturo, North Haven, made a motion to accept the April Treasurer’s Report, Terry Cain, Guilford, second, and all were in favor.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mark Minotti began his report by explaining that the Council received checks for insurance but is still waiting on checks from Madison and North Haven that would be deposited that week. Mark said that he has been in contact with Jen from the insurance company and that he needed to complete a new form to verify that all the information stayed the same. Mark said that he would not know of any changes in the amount per station until after the form is submitted; the form would be submitted tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark asked if the Council had any new information regarding the 60/40 on the 5790 and 5791 Bills. Walter explained that there were apparently no changes in the status of the 60/40 since it had not come out of the committee yet. Walter also said that the Energy and Technology Committee and their Finance Committee approved a bill the previous week that would wipe 3.4 million from the Paypedia Grant for the 2014 fiscal year and 3.5 million for the 2015 fiscal year, effectively wiping the Paypedia Grant account clean. Everyone must get grants in by the May 1 deadline. Mark encouraged Council members to write grants if needed and thanked Walter for raising this issue.

There was a discussion about the status of the appointed representatives. Mark Minotti said that he would email Abigail about Scarpetti's position as a Council member from Madison, as well as Steve Hughes. It was also pointed out that the Council needed a member from Branford; Mark suggested that Walter speak with the Branford selectman since he represents the school but not the town. Mark said that North Haven needed a representative advisor as well as a school advisor. The Council also needed an advisor from BCTV. Mark said that he would email all the PEGS regarding nominees for chairman.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark asked if all annual reports were in. It was said that the reports from North Branford, Madison, and Wallingford WPAA were still missing. Tom said that he would email Hugo, WPAA, and Abigail White from Madison.

Mark said that although he had wanted to set up a nomination committee to elect the new chairman, he said he would personally nominate David Weinberg for the position. Mark asked Council members to email him their nominations to be counted. Mark also announced that the Council needed a new minute taker since Mary will not be able to continue doing minutes. Mark said that the Council will be able to hire a new minute taker but to make sure that that person is reliable so that meetings will run smoothly.

Mark said that the Council will most likely be on track with its insurance policy but that the exact figures are not in yet. Mark said that he would email all the PEGS and all the advisors with these details by the following Monday.

For the next annual meeting, Mark said that the Council needed a budget committee. Tom said that he would need three members, including himself, and that he would work on getting the committee together for the next meeting. Mark suggested that the Council have a speaker; it was decided to ask operations manager Shannon Gale if she would like to be the speaker at the annual meeting. It was also decided that the annual meeting would be held at North Branford.

TOWN REPORTS

Wallingford: Tom Dacey announced that WPAA just upgraded to new equipment with their new grant money. This took Free Speech Square off the station for several nights. Tom explained that Free Speech Square was a live camera that the station airs nightly from 10pm-12m, allowing anyone to come up and say anything they like on camera.

Guilford: David Weinberg said that the digital technology was up and running, although learning how it works has been an ongoing process. A high school quiz bowl was produced with game show software developed by one of the board members. This program is on GCTV and will probably air in Madison as well.

North Haven: Walter Mann said that NHTV filed a grant over the weekend. Walter also said that the station would participate in the chowder booth at the North Haven Fair with clam chowder, corn chowder, and meatball parm. Walter announced that the station would have interns from Duke University, SCSU, Point Park University, and Marist College starting next month. The

interns gain experience and school credit for their work. Walter explained that students often contact him because the internship opportunities are posted on the station's website. Because of the pending reconstruction of four fire departments in town, NHTV has temporarily moved its government channel from its old building to a new location. A new room for the government channel will be provided after the reconstruction is complete. Walter explained that NHTV will not be able to present live coverage of the Memorial Day Parade but will tape it and show it after the parade.

Branford: Walter said that BCTV filed a grant for \$104k and that he is waiting on the results. He also said that BCTV has taken on several Branford High School interns. Mike Maturo said that one of their interns from Yale has been very helpful and is on the same level as many of the employees.

East Haven: Bill Biski said that everything is going smoothly. Mike Streeto said that EHTV will be covering the Columbus Day Parade which is shared with Branford.

North Branford: Mary Bigelow said that the schools offered to have Tawtucket TV join with the education channel, starting with the high school. Mary explained that the middle school studio would have worked out well. However, because of the issues surrounding Sandy Hook and elsewhere, giving the studio a separate public entrance/exit was not possible since the school operates on its own hours. The station will stay in its current studio and try to bring education channels in to Tawtucket TV.

Mark suggested that PEGS air more health-related programming (health of mind/body/spirit) to attract more viewers. He spoke about the ability of Reiki healing to correct imbalances due to stress and offered to refer Council members to various speakers/venues.

Terry Cain and David Weinberg left the meeting at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Tom Dacey, Wallingford, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm; second by Mike Maturo, North Haven. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted

Mary Minotti