

CACSCC Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Totoket Tv, North Branford

The Cable Advisory Council of South Central Ct Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Minotti at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting Quorum: 8 Members/ 5 Towns

Those present were: Mark Minotti, North Haven; Michael Maturo, North Haven. Bill Biski, East Haven; Joanne Wentworth & Mary Bigelow, North Branford; Chad Roy, Branford Ed.; Tom Dacey & Laura Parisi, Wallingford; David Weinberg, Guilford.; Steve Fuest- Madison

Those absent were: Mary Lyons, Branford; J.T. Tenczar, North Branford; Terri Fiondella, & Terri Cain, Guilford and John Bairos, Comcast Representative.

Guests in attendance: Shannon Gale, Guilford; Madison; Mary Minotti, North Haven; Josephine Provenzano, North Haven; Donna Minotti, North Haven; Emily Morin, Massachusetts; Walter Mann, North Haven; Mike Streeto, EHTV Cameraman; Janet Betta, North Haven; Dan Morris, North Haven; Art Feldman, North Branford

Mark Minotti thanked North Branford & called up Art Feldman who welcomed the council and announced that North Branford was going to liven things up for their future. A Quorum was made with 7 Towns represented, stated by Mary Bigelow, Vice-Chairman. Mark Minotti, Chairman, ask if there were any public comments with no response made.

COMCAST REPORT:

Mark Minotti, moved onto the Comcast Report,.John Bairos, representative for Comcast was not present but did send a report which was distributed to all advisors. Mark also included in the report a complaint from EHTV which had already been rectified by John Bairos. Steve Fuest explained that Madison Tv had the same issue as EHTV and was also rectified. Comcast Report was accepted.

Guest Speaker:

Mark asked Dave Weinberg, Guilford, to introduce our guest speaker, Shannon Gale who is operations manager at Guilford Tv. Dave explained that Shannon grew up in public access tv, and that she would talk to the council about the Self Made Internship Program that she heads up for GCTV. Shannon began speaking about her background in tv and gave a overview about the ins and outs of the Intern program. Shannon talked about how the program has grown over the years and that much of the success was word of mouth from the students that signed up for the internship program. Shannon explained that the internship program teaches all the facets of public access tv, from filming, editing, working with today's Tv technology, including everything that goes on behind the scenes. Mark asked Shannon if interns were coming to her or if she had to look for them and Shannon said they come to her which showed there is a strong desire for the program. Shannon also mentioned that some interns are there for community service hours also. She also mentioned that they made a separate intern program for a college student who needed credits. She stated that GCTV's youngest producer is 8 years old and has her own TV show. Shannon stated that they also work with Rotary's Interact kids. Mark Minotti asked Shannon to describe how individuals in town can get involved in making their own show. Shannon explained that anyone can get involved as long as they are part of the community where that station is located. Dave Weinberg explained how GCTV built an education center classroom in the TV station to train their interns. Mark stated that he was very impressed with Shannons work with the youth of her town and opened the floor up for questions for Shannon. Laura Parisi, Wallingford, asked if Shannon would be interested in holding a training session for other PEGS in the how to of training interns and Shannon expressed an interest in entertaining the idea further. Mark stated that the training session might be good to have at a future CACSCC meeting. Mark also stated that moving the meetings into a more productive future, like training sessions for the PEGS, would be in the best interest of the council. Mark stressed the importance of unity amongst the council and PEGS and to work together. Mark welcomed Walter Mann, NHTV, to the floor to speak. Walter explained that they are in their 13th year of working their own internship program. He explained that some of his interns are community service hour based but that others are career minded individuals. They are currently working with 3 college student interns and that 80% of their student interns find their way to NHTV through their website. Mark suggested to the advisors that the other PEGS should add a link to their web

sites so that interns can find and receive info about programs available. Walter handed out info packs to all. Walter explained that handicapped individuals are always welcome and that they recently had a blind person who specialty was working with graphics. Walter also explained that he suggests to all his interns to not only work in public access, but to try to intern at local new stations to get the feel of both environments. Mark said that emulating successful studios, like NHTV and GCTV, is the best way to succeed in making the other struggling stations grow. Mark thanked Shannon and Walter for their time and input. Joanne Wentworth, North Branford, commended GCTV on their new studio and their great work in public access.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from April 25, 2013 were reviewed and the following corrections were made:

(last page)” “Tawtucket” spelling incorrect, corrected to reflect correct spelling “ Totoket”

“Absent correction” Chad Roy was absent

Name Spelling Error- Terri Fiondella, & Terri Cain both are spelled with (i’s) and not (t’s)-action Corrected

A motion from Tom Dacey, Wallingford, to accept the corrected minutes from the last meeting held on April 25, 2013. Dave Weinberg, Guilford, second. Abstained, Steve Fuest-Madison, Chad Roy, Branford, Joanne Wentworth, North Branford, Laura Parisi, Wallingford Everyone else approved.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mark Minotti began his report by thanking everyone for the opportunity of being the Chairman of the council. Mark stated that he came on as an advisor in Feb 2010 and became Chairman in May 2010. He commended the group for all their accomplishments including retaining the 60/40 and how sticking together on such matters showed great strength and unity. He stated that the council is now a place where everyone is recognized as equals and can be heard. He asked that his successor continue keeping the meetings open, friendly, and professional and continue to increase the membership

and make the council grow to be consistently productive. Mark ask that his goal of not using meetings just for complaints be continued and that constant subjects be introduced for growth of the council and PEGS alike. Mark commended Mary Bigelow for all her work in making the council what it is today. He thanked and stated that he would miss Joanne Wentworth for her wealth of knowledge and Tom Dacey for his expertise in correcting and maintaining the treasurers position. Mark said that leaving is “bittersweet” but the constraints in his life have made it unable for him to give 100% to the Chairman’s position. He welcomed anyone on the council to contact him with any questions, opinions, or if they ever needed his assistance. Mark also ask that the council move forward on getting the Comcast Router up and running so that all the PEGS could share programs with each other. He also stressed the importance of working together as a team instead of individual stations.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Tom Dacey, Wallingford, reviewed the following balances:

Checking Account \$5739.54

CD Account \$14,650.88

Total Cash Assets \$20,390.42

Tom explained that all monies had been received from all participating PEGS for Insurance payment and that everything was in place.

Joanne Wentworth, No. Branford, made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Laura Parisi, Wallingford, second. All were in favor. .

Correspondence:

Mark announced the Appointment Letters of Chad Roy, Branford Education Advisor, Starting July 1st 2013 and ending June 30, 2014 and Steve Fuest, Madison Board of Education July 1st, 2013 through June 30, 2015. Resignation from Thomas Scarpatti.

OLD BUSINESS

Web Site is currently being taken care of by Walter Mann. Tom Dacey will take over updating web site with Walter Mann’s assistance. Walter Mann has updated entire website with all the necessary contacts. Website address

is www.Cableadvisorycouncilscc.org. Walter ask for a updated list of contacts which Mary Bigelow volunteered to send to him. Updating will also include a new email address for new chairman and advisors. Mark asked all advisors to furnish proper contact info for updates as well as showing courtesy in answering all contact correspondences that they receive so that Mary Bigelow will know who will be attending meetings within a reasonable time. Walter Mann announced that Pura announced that due to the actions at the Capitol and the States budget,they have suspended the Peg Pedia Program as of July 1st, for the next 2 years. Any applications received before July 1st, will be eligible to be processed but is only dependant on how much money is left after the government redistributes the funds to the general fund. Mark expressed deep regret for the PEGS because the State had taken over 4 million dollars that was allotted for grants to help the PEGS Purchase new equipment, etc. Mark expressed his anger because of why the State found out about the monies in the account, which was due to WPAA's continued effort to have the 60/40 funding changed to a per prescriber based formula so that they could incur more income. By bringing in Representative Mary Maschinsky of Wallingford, which they thought would help their efforts, instead backfired. She notified the finance dept at the Capitol, which in turn, liberated funds from the account without many of the district Representative's knowledge. Mark stressed again, the importance of working together for the best interest of Public Access, instead of allowing anger and greed to obstruct their views. Mark also stated that the public will still be taxed for the grants on their bills, even though the grants have been suspended. Where the money will end up is unknown, Mark stated. He also stated that the PEGS should make sure to watch what is going on at the Capitol and lobby, report on the ongoing issues brought on by our State Government, damaging the ability to properly run public access tv so that everyone will know what is going on. Art Feldman, North Branford asked if someone could be appointed as a legislative liaison within the advisory council. Mark agreed and stated that it should be a focus of new business at the next CACSCC meeting including forming a watchdog committee and a new bylaw committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark informed the council of the dates for the CACSCC meetings for 2013-2014 year. Tom Dacey, Wallingford, made a motion to accept the meeting schedule for the year, 2013-2014. Mike Maturo, North Haven, second, None

abstaining, None against. All in Favor. Tom Dacey, Wallingford, informed the council that we needed to appoint a representative to the AT&T statewide council. Mark moved the new business presented by Tom Dacey, Wallingford, and added it to the Election of Officers for that evening to vote on.

Other Business:

Mark asked for (3) people to head the By Law Committee and Mary Bigelow, North Branford, Tom Dacey, Wallingford, and Michael Maturo, North Haven, all volunteered. Mark explained once the By Laws are updated and approved, they would be uploaded to the web site. Speaker Committee will consist of Joanne Wentworth, North Branford. Mark asked for more involvement by the advisors for committees.

TOWN REPORTS

North Branford: Mary Bigelow said that Totoket Tv has hired Walter Mann to manage the studio and that Hugo Olguin is no longer there. They applied for a Peg Pedia Grant which was submitted and hopeful that they will receive it. Grant was for \$15,000. They are currently in the process of getting on Uverse They are also working on filming more town meetings per month and (2) new shows starting up soon.

Guilford: David Weinberg announced that GCTV dedicated the studio to the memory of Bob Vanderbine, who was a volunteer for GCTV for 30 years. Many elected officials including Bob's widow were present. Dave also thanked the council for informing GCTV to get their grant proposal in on time. He credited being at the April meeting to GCTV moving quickly to submit their grant proposal. Shannon Gale stated that summer is slower for them and that they are in the process of gearing up their internship program again.

Wallingford: Tom Dacey stated that WPAA had their annual meeting last month and elected a few new members to their board. Rich Maverannus is no longer a board member but is staying on as a technical advisor.

East Haven: Bill Biski announced filming of the fireworks show and numerous concerts on the green.

Branford: Walter Mann announced that 3 new board members were appointed. Branford High School student, Jee Bee, is producing a weekly news program about Branford news and politics, the station produced the history of the “Thimble Islands” with B & W footage which can be viewed through Branfordtv.org website. They also did a tour of the Stony Creek Quarry with First Selectman, Anthony "Unk" DaRos. Branford applied for a Peg Pedia Grant which was submitted May 1st and hopeful that they will receive it. Grant was for \$100,000.

North Haven: Mike Maturo stated that NHTV is very busy recording 4 shows a evening as well as day shows and filmed the High School Graduation on the 26th. Mike stated that NHTV has a very robust internship program. They are also preparing for the annual Chowder Booth at the North Haven Fair. He explained that they are very proud of Mike Vilente who is currently #1 position out of 9 people participating in WTNH, channel 8’s Sports Edge on scene reporting competition. North Haven applied for a Peg Pedia Grant which was submitted May 1st and hopeful that they will receive it. Grant was for \$80,000.

Madison: Steve Fuest, explained that Madison TV just filmed the high school graduation and many school concerts. They will also be producing more shows for their education channel. They had a volunteer appreciation dinner and just purchased some equipment for NHTV. Ken Sprague is celebrating filming every football game for the past 26 seasons.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Election of Officers:

Nomination committee consist of Mark Minotti, Chairman, Joanne Wentworth, Secretary, and Bill Biski, East Haven, reads off slate for year 2013-2014. They are as follows: Michael Maturo, Chairman, Mary Bigelow, Vice-Chairperson, Thomas Dacey, Treasurer, and Joanne Wentworth, Secretary. Mark Minotti ask for any other nominations from the floor, no response. Mark asked for a motion. Dave Weinberg moved to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee and elect the entire slate of officers, Laura Parisi, Wallingford, second, none abstained, none against, all in favor.

Council Election of AT&T Representative was unsuccessful and Mark Minotti ask that a motion be made to table the election to the next meeting. Dave Weinberg, Guilford, made motion to table election to next meeting, Joanne Wentworth, North Branford, second, None abstained, None against, All in favor. Note: Mark asked the new executive board to send out a memo to all advisors to recruit someone of this position. He also reminded the Executive Board to get a minute taker who can be counted on to be at every meeting.

Joanne Wentworth makes a surprise presentation for exiting Chairman, Mark Minotti which consisted of the council presenting him with a commorative plaque thanking him for his service on the Executive Board. Pictures were taken of the Executive Board for the Web site. Mark again said Thank You for Allowing him the privilege to Chair the board.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Tom Dacey, Wallingford; made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm; second by Chad Roy, Branford Ed. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted

Mark Minotti