

Cable Advisory Council of South Central CT, Inc.
P.O. Box 248
Northford, CT 06472-0248

MINUTES - OCTOBER 22ND, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Choti (North Branford)
Thomas Dacey (Wallingford - Skype)
David Weinberg (Guilford)
Steven Fuest (Madison)
Margot Hardenbergh (Branford)
Alden Mead (North Haven)
Laura Parisi (Wallingford)
Michael Parisi (North Haven)
John Bairos (Comcast Representative)

Mike Streeto (Guest - East Haven)

Roll Call: 7 Towns and 9 Members

Chairman David Weinberg called the meeting to order and welcomed the Council to GCTV. He introduced new council member Michael Parisi of North Haven.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

August minutes to be corrected and amended.

COMCAST REPORT, John Bairos:

John Bairos reported on updates to the channel line up:

- Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) moved to Digital Preferred Tier
- Fox Movies (FXM) moved to Digital Preferred Tier
- New Channel 83 – featuring inspiration, 70s programming

CSPAN announced 2016 student documentary competition with the theme: "Road to the White House" Last year a Madison high school student was a winner

Comcast has re-launched *Internet Essentials* program which allows students who receive free/reduced lunch to receive free internet services.

Comcast continues its commitment to expanding opportunity to all its customers: hearing/visually impaired customers will receive additional support, particularly in managing closed captioning.

DISCUSSION: Surrendering Education Channels

There was discussion about email correspondence to various council members from Susan

Huizenga of WPAA suggesting that local stations offer to surrender their mandated education channels to the cable provider in exchange for monetary compensation. Margot moved and Steven seconded a motion that the CACSCC go on record opposing the surrender of education stations and encourage members to do the same. Motion was seconded and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Thomas Dacey

Tom Dacey presented the Treasurer's Report by Skype.

Expenses: Oct 22nd:

- \$4,198 Website Fees
- \$90 for recording secretary.
- Post office box \$76
- Total Expenses

Checking Balance: \$5,225.39

Interest on CD: \$3.28 in August/Sept: \$3.17

CD Balance \$12,889.34

Total Cash Reserve: \$18,114.73

It was noted that Madison, East Haven and North Branford have submitted their respective insurance contributions of \$285 each. The payment from Guilford is still outstanding. Laura moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and the motion was seconded and passed.

Tom reported that the council has a CD in Guilford Savings Bank that will mature on November 24, 2015. Steve moved that the council grant the treasurer discretion to roll over the CD for a period of one year, paying insurance out of the cash balance in the account. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST WPAA

The CACSCC has received three related complaints against Wallingford Public Access Association, Inc. concerning a June 11, 2015 production by one of its producers, Robert O'Connor, and the station's subsequent suspension of Mr. O'Connor.

Mr. Robert O'Connor, a WPAA producer, complains that on June 11, 2015, Susan Huizenga, executive director of WPAA, interrupted video recording of his show, which was to be edited the next day, objecting to his mention of a raffle. A second complaint by Mr. Robert Parisi alleges that the station manager of Wallingford Public Access Television edited and cablecast the Bob O'Connor and John Backstra Show without the involvement of the producer. A third complaint by Joan Ives-Parisi alleges that Mr. O'Connor was suspended from WPAA without due process and in violation of station rules and policy.

In response to the complaints, WPAA has submitted extensive information, correspondence and documents.

Tom Dacey provided additional background about WPAA's position, which he believes is justified. Since Tom represents Wallingford and has a show at WPAA, he was asked to abstain from additional involvement so that the subcommittee could explore the matter without any appearance of partiality.

The CACSCC has made no official findings on this matter, contrary to written statements by

WPAA. The CACSCC has formed a subcommittee including David Weinberg, Margot Hardenbergh and Alden Mead. David will contact the parties to see if mediation is possible.

FRONTIER STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC).

Steven Fuest
There was no meeting this period.

OLD BUSINESS.

There are presently vacancies in the council for Branford, East Haven, and Madison.

TOWN REPORTS:

Guilford:

GCTV presented a video produced by intern Sam Stark, *Ringing the Peace Bell*, about the United Nations International Day of Peace celebrated on September 21 of each year. GCTV was invited to have interns cover the event and participate in a social media campaign to increase awareness, #PeaceDay.

GCTV Board Member Al DiMarzio, a professional videographer, has been moderating an open Videography Forum at GCTV on the first Tuesday of every month. People from all CACSCC member stations are welcome to attend. While many beginners have been attending, Al would like to attract more experienced videographers and producers.

Branford:

Margot reported that BCTV held its first annual *Tour de Branford* bike ride. The goal was to have 150 riders participate, and 200 showed up for the ride. Fifteen local businesses sponsored the event, which raised \$6,000 to \$7000.

BCTV recently televised the League of Women Voters first selectman debate. Tonight, the station will broadcast the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce debate live from the Fire Department headquarters. BCTV is planning live coverage of the November election with Jim Masters and Chris Fallarti reporting.

BCTV is installing all HDTV production equipment, including robotic cameras. Walter Mann continues to work with Chad Roy of pinpointing cause of poor signal on access Channel 19. May need Black burst, sync generator, or editing Software.

North Haven:

NHTV had a successful year its Old Fashion Chowder Booth at the North Haven fair. The stations Fall Fruit fundraiser is now underway.

It's been a busy political season for NHTV, which has televised 3 debates. The station is gearing up for live election night coverage, as it has each year since 1989.

In addition to local town meetings, local scholastic sports are a critical component of being a successful public access TV station. NHTV covers all high school football home games, and this has been well received by the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.