



Meeting Minutes for 26 January, 2006

Meeting convened at No. Branford Town Hall

Present:

Branford	John Elliott, Marvin Zimmerman, Pat McGlashan, Billye Bradley (BOE)
East Haven	Marie Saddig, R. Becker
Guilford	Pete Garofalo, Jeff Lincoln
Madison	Stephen Fuest
North Haven	Carolyn Spetland
North Branford	Mary Bigelow, Joanne Wentworth
Wallingford	Susan Huizenga
Library	Ken Donadio
COMCAST	John Bairos

Regrets: Marie Saddig

Absent without regrets: R. Becker

Guests: Nancy Lappie

I. Call to order/roll call.

Chairman Huizenga called the meeting to order at **6:58** pm

6 Towns represented, **13** Members present

II. Public Comment

The meeting included a warm-up get to know you exercise while waiting for all expected members to arrive.

S.H recognized our guest Nancy Lappie of No. Branford.

Nancy Lappie: problem with DVR on Comcast. Upon calling she found it was a common security issue, though not mentioned in the literature that can be easily solved. Hard drive had to be reset because of several glitches in the system.

III. Review of Agenda:

- Roll Call/Call to Order
- Welcome/Public Comments
- Enter Log of Correspondence/Minutes Action
 - **Notice of Program Changes. One call and two letters regarding this situation.
- Reports: Executive Committee (EC), Company, Committees
- Old/New Business (North Branford Tabled Action)
- Town Reports/Public Comments

IV. Incoming Correspondence/ Minutes Action: Chairman Huizenga asked that the Minutes of the Oct 2005 Meeting be reviewed for acceptance

CACSCC Annual Report to be filed by Jan 31st based on Financial Statement from P.G. and confirmation of Oct. Minutes tonight.

Chairman Huizenga identified some of logged items. Complete log will be posted on Web site.

Steve Fuest called the motion to accept. **John Elliot** second The motion carried. All in favor, no oppositions or abstentions.

***Check from iGive for \$158. Another check is supposed to be in the mail. Upon signing up and using, each person should account for \$5, but the system is hitherto unreliable. There is an option to join with other charities.

***Executive Committee now full. Carolyn accepted nomination for vice chair. Signers are needed for the bank account. Paperwork was initiated with Guilford Saving Bank. **Signatures will be requested tonight based on authorized signers in attendance.**

***Insurance

Steve Fuest: Move to authorize check for \$4000 on EOM Insurance in anticipation of 2.1.06 effective date. Seconded by John Elliot. The motion carried. All in favor, no oppositions or abstentions.

Report on finances by Pete Garofalo: There are outstanding checks; overall, there is roughly \$700 in the check-off account the account used under prior franchise agreement to handle pass-thru grants. **Motion to reissue outdated checks associated with Check-off Account moved by Joanne Wentworth, Seconded by Steve Fuest.** Pete Garofalo to provide update so checks can be reissued at March Meeting. Follow-up provided by e-mail following meeting included the following detail:

As a continuation of tonight's discussion, following are the outstanding checks remaining on the Checkoff account:

EHTV - 182.00 (Orig. issued 9-13-03)
GCTV - 519.00 (Orig. issued 11-20-02)
NBPCAG - 78.00 (Orig. issued 08-27-02)

These checks will be re-issued. Any questions let me know.

Pete Garofalo
Treasurer/CACSCC
For more information: www.7owntv.org

V. Committees

Committee meetings to be held in February. Chairman will contact each Committee lead. Open discussion at end of meeting identified some priorities to be considered within each committee.

Education: Use of channels as Distance Education tool, possible satellite downlink options and how to get info to town BOE & local homeschool groups/families

Outreach: - how to use the web site and plan the annual meeting. Should direction be given to this committee to continue with this or to take a new direction?)

PEG: Focus on By-laws updates

Shared Services: If Insurance resolved, then Router as service not PEG Policy

VII. COMCAST Report.

Comcast Report by John Bairos.

Customer Correspondence: Chairman Huizenga turns over a check from the subscriber and two letters from unhappy subscribers to JB. MZ also gives JB a letter.

Chairman Huizenga asks J.B. to comment on the UPN and WB announcement and comment on correspondence sent out by company since last meeting including Correspondence about channel and charge changes with particular attention to "senior charges".

JB: As regards UPN/WB merger it might free up a channel but it is still unknown. An update can be given next meeting but information is currently limited.

Marketing info included: Reminder of annual scholarships, Feb 10th is the deadline and only one nominee per school is accepted. Multiple nominees will automatically disqualify all candidates from the Town. (Info available under 7towntv.org News: Homepage) Comcast has a joint project with the Discovery Channel / National Geographic. Large Laminated World Maps available from this project. **Distributed maps to reps from each town to bring to a local school/library.** Quarterly P.E.G. payments were sent out last week, the annual payment of \$2000 is given to CACSCC tonight.

Questions / concerns regarding new marketing. Statewide loss of subscribers. New programs such as ethnic and sports programming are being evaluated by Comcast. Only New customers are offered a range of packages but a retention program is also being worked on. *Look up Branford specifically regarding the loss /gain of customers*

- Brochures regarding video trips (a Smithsonian program) are distributed.
- New welcome kits for new customers and a brochure regarding bundling packages are also passed out.

Family Tier will soon be offered by Comcast as an alternative to basic cable. This program is a mix that would appeal to seniors and is child-friendly. Pricing and installation has not yet been set up.

- TV Guide and CTN: CTN was added to the basic tier and TV Guide was relocated to the digital tier, because this channel was least likely to affect customers. However customer complaints have been received on this change.

-Price adjustments. No change in Branford franchise for Basic Tier however senior installation citizen prices was decreased. New channel lineups and price brochures distributed. Clarification: senior citizens need to ask about this discount in order to receive it. This should be brought to the attention of the senior centers. Efforts will be made to bring forth this issue to the community. Chairman Huizenga & Advisor K.D. have this follow-up as next step.

-Channel 5 / **HBO is displaying color bars** but there is no information regarding this situation. May be related to scrambler on the utility poll. **J.B. to research.**

VIII. Executive Committee (EC) Report (Treasurer Report distributed. Exec. Committee reviewed and processing Annual Report.)

IX. Old Business

Business regarding **ACM**: cable advisory had a membership that is group membership but only 6 entities are covered under this. Last year East Haven and Wallingford (and possibly North Haven) paid memberships anyway. Each town does not then get a copy of the newsletter. (7 pegs + cable advisory) Guilford (Jeff Lincoln) opts out to solve this problem. ACM org membership @ \$575 due in February. Will be paid and administered based on this information. **Check authorized per annual budget.**

DPUC Draft Decision on docket [05-09-07](#): Community Access Channels received today as correspondence. This document will be added as link to 7TownTV.org Home page. It is an interesting read. Excerpts shared at meeting. Chairman Huizenga noted the divergent opinions of cable carriers and communities on this topic and the mediation of same by DPUC.

Tabled [North Branford](#) item (related to encouraging a 3way conversation between PEG, CACSCC and company related to Board configuration, PEG Management, company intervention and 2005 Annual Meeting initiate with request for assistance from Totoket TV Chairman. Company has recently reported that it has done some intervention. Item as been tabled several times since July. Advisors given opportunity to make a motion to give direction to this local group to do due diligence about community and membership notification of their local meeting esp. Annual Meeting Notice. [Steve Fuest motions to drop this item unless it resurfaces and there is a request to take it up again understanding that the expectations are that future NBPCAG meetings will be handled in accordance with by-laws and with sufficient notice to the community. Seconded by Marvin Zimmerman, no oppositions, SH abstains. J. L. offered to be an observer for NBPCAG 2006 Annual Meeting and provided contact information to N. Lappie.](#)

X. New Business .

Attendance Policy reviewed: MS or SH must get notification about regrets.
Confirmed 2006 Schedule: Distributed. Advisors are responsible for letting local PEG know of schedule in addition to mailing they will receive. Waiting for Insurance issue to be finalized to include in mailing.

CACSCC Annual Report to be filed based on Financial Statement form P.G. and confirmation of Oct. Minutes tonight.

No other new business.

XI. Town Reports

Town Reports as time allows. Updates can be submitted in writing.

Madison (Steve Fuest) Channel 19 will be moved and all three will be relocated to the education channel.

Submitted in writing: Walter Mann has been hired on a part time basis as BCTV's new station manager. He started a few weeks ago and the results are already obvious and good. We have started a one half hour interview program hosted by Peter Lombard which runs every 2 weeks and has call ins as part of the program. They have been very good and well received.

Public Comments

Nancy Lappie: Thanks to J.L. for offering to be observer for Totoket 2006 Annual Meeting.

Adjournment

SH calls meeting to adjournment at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted:
Elizabeth Frager