



Date: **04/23/09**
 Scheduled Time: **7:00 -9:00 PM MONTHLY** Location: **No Branford TV**
 Call to Order **7:10 PM** Adjourn **x:xx PM**
 Roll Call **5 Towns/entities represented by 9 members [No Quorum: Need 4 Towns, 7 Members]**

#	Attendees	Town	✓	#	Attendees	Area	✓
	John Elliott	Branford	✓		Not represented	North Haven	
	Peter Hugret	Branford	✓			North Haven	
	Pete Lombard	Branford	✓			North Haven	
		Branford BOE				North Haven BOE	
	Marie Saddig	East Haven	✓		Mary Bigelow	North Branford	✓
	Bill Golambiski (aka) Bill Biski	East Haven	✓			North Branford	
	Frances Foley	East Haven	✓			North Branford BOE	
		East Haven BOE			Susan Huizenga	Wallingford	✓
	Joel Parker	Guilford	✓			Wallingford	
	Pete Garofalo	Guilford				Wallingford	
		Guilford				Wallingford BOE	
		Guilford BOE			Not Represented	Library	
	Not represented	Madison					
		Madison			Guest	Richard Bigelow, Roger Buckridge, Totoket TV	
		Madison BOE					
4	John Bairos	Company- COMCAST	✓				

Legend: ✓ attend, R regrets, N No Status, P proxy provided

----- AGENDA TOPICS -----

	Subject	Lead	In Brief
1	Roll Call / Welcome Public Comments	Chairman Site Representative	Informal discussion of correspondence until call to Order –No Quorum – No Public Comments
2	Log of Correspondence	Chairman	Chairman Updates
3	Review / Accept Minutes	Advisors	Jan 2009 Minutes & Action to Table
4	Executive Committee Report	S.H./ C.S./P.G	Op Statement & CD Update Insurance Update -Billing
5	Comcast Report	J. Bairos	Comments on No Branford Customer Service – long lines, Support for ClassicArts Summer Schedule
6	Deferred / Old Business (Including Committee Reports)	Advisors	All official Business Deferred
7	New Business / Town Reports	Advisors	Router Revisited, Madison Docket
8	Public Comments & Adjournment		Motion by JE Seconded by PG

----- MEETING MINUTES -----

Description	
1	Meeting hosted by North Branford Town. Welcome New Branford Advisors: Richard/Roger – general comment: Having a hard time recruiting producers. Would like to find people to do independent projects. Help?
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ACM NorthEast Conference info Burlington VT May b. WPAA delay in filing DPUC Report c. April 10 Channel Program Changes – d. ETV Outage support – contact info

	<p>e. Correspondence Madison Sub in Guilford PEG cablecast area – DPUC filing – Docket 09-04-25</p> <hr/> <p>Record journal called about dropping channel 15. Was any other Advisor contacted for any cable business? Joel says he wrote some emails to which chairman that have not been replied to yet. He asked to review items at meeting. Do you need digital boxes to receive channel 13. Do the PEG stations need any special equipment for the digital conversion change? NO. (You only need a digital box for channels over 100 and on the basic tier. There will continue to be program changes like this one and others seen over the past year..</p> <p>An aside- U-verse is moving in Guilford.</p>
3	<p>The Minutes for 2009 are on this new web page: http://www.7towntv.org/min2009.html</p> <hr/> <p>Notes from January and March (which was not a quorum) need to be moved for approval.</p> <p>John Elliot makes a motion to accept the minutes – seconded by Fran Foley. No discussion. Put to a vote. All vote yes.</p>
4	<p>Pete is absent for treasurers report. But the report was distributed in advance of the meeting. No major activity since last month. He summarized that the CD is maturing in July.</p> <p>John Elliot asks about the balances are – total projected surplus \$19,466.75</p> <p>Did any organization pay their insurance? (Yes) Branford, North Haven. Chairman needs to go to mail box and deposit whatever has been sent.</p> <p>Susan says she did not pick up the insurance Bill for Wallingford</p> <p>Possible expenditures between now and end of year – acm dues and recording secretary... budget for annual meeting... will entertain any ideas for the spending of the projected surplus. Some dependencies on outcome of Docket 09-04-25.</p> <p>Participation in the DOCKET on Communitu Access Payment Review Process. Process is not improving but is predictable!</p> <p>CPI index is readily available for Comcast to budget with.</p> <p>\$7.10 application</p> <p>No customer correspondence. Did receive the inquiry about channel 15 – not being in the neighborhood.</p>

5	<p>COMCAST Report – Channel 15 Inquiries</p> <p>Channel 15, and TIC 61 – TIC petitioned the FCC for over rights of broadcast. Any programming from FOX NY would have been blocked out. So Comcast decided to just eliminate the FOX NY channel and keep the Hartford channel. Thinks that channel 61 should still carry the NFC game (not guaranteed to be giants)</p> <p>Will additional program be considered to use this capacity (susan)?</p> <p>Channel 13 which just moved from analog to digital – local pbs channel has right to remain analog or digital. CPTV has requested to remain analog.</p> <p>WNET kids 13, WNET VME, WNET Hi-def have all been added by moving to digital. But are no longer on the basic tier – without owning a box. But are basic – with the box.</p> <p>Will Comcast be offering a box for up to a year for free (to anyone with a problem). John is uninformed and unable to respond.</p> <p>Sports overflow channel created out of conflict of playoff hockey vs baseball – for boston sports.</p> <p>(Susan: total complain max is 12 letters... sports fans... rates issues... cspan viewers... in that order... has consistently been resolved to viewer satisfaction... so cannot be upset with Comcast.)</p> <p>Still negotiating with NFL network – now before the FCC. Last year placed it on sports tier to change cost to viewer ... \$7.95.</p> <p>Question: Will Comcast be covering ladies huskies UCONN basketball. John: perhaps in the future. In talks with ESPN</p> <p>Joel: if you have cable you don't need a converter box but you need a digital box if you need certain channels. But people need to pay 60 dollars for basic tier? John: No. If an individual has their TV connected to cable they will not lose their signals.</p> <p>A person without a digital converter box today, who used to see pbs,</p> <p>The converter box and the digital box are different. The digital box is the only one that applies to Comcast. It is required if your tv is not cable ready for digital programming. And if you do not have a box or a cable ready digital tv as programs change to above a 100 you will lose the potential of viewing channels that are still defined as being on the basic tier.</p>
6	<p>Town Reports– Highlights for 7TownTV.org Advisor Action item pending from a few towns.</p> <p>U-Verse latest contract on Wallingford page.</p> <hr/> <p>U-verse mystery check. Not losing money, but no way to know if they are fudging numbers and cheating anyone.</p> <p>Granicus – how they proposed using their system opposes the contract they made us sign. Also, not enough bandwidth... defies laws of physics.</p> <p>Must think ahead to annual meeting.</p> <p>Comments or corrections on board of education letter? None. Commitment to pass letter on to board advisor, Branford, north Branford, east haven, Wallingford, Guilford</p> <p>Legislative action, couple of bills are making some level of progress through legislature.</p> <p>HB06132 & HB06604 are they good or bad? Rather confusing.</p> <p>HB06604 : Narrowing scope of peta funds. But unsure about what they are considering “narrowing”</p>

Seems they are "narrowing" down the field to only people who file for DPUC are allowed PEG grant money – which cuts out all individual producers.

Suggests each town write a letter to their legislature to inquire about future funding constraints.

[HB06132](#) : most of this bill is already standard practice.

Madison resident wants to watch PEG but can't – correspondence nightmare. Comcast is obligated to provide them the opportunity to see PEG – but not responsible to provide them with the full service/cost. Is there any work around for this particular family? If they have internet access and the peg station can be put on the internet – then they might be willing to accept that as a solution. WPAA as a vbrick 24/7 on internet. Madison has website. We can suggest to Comcast that they help underwrite Madison the capability to also use vbrick – this may solve the problem. Roger informs the group that any such move would have to be navigated through the actual town.

Are all of the channels potentially interested in 24/7 internet capacity?

What if a producer doesn't want their show on the internet? (marie, east haven) Susan: I don't know. Does that beast even exist? Should put it into the original contract producers sign – that shows will be broadcast on internet...

It has to be part of your policy documents – acknowledge that you have two distribution streams.

Do we have to inform the public? When doing direct interviews and so forth – a general release form serves the purpose. Individual producer responsibility.

But do we have an obligation to notify the general public that public access tv will be broadcast on the internet?

Must be on forms and policies and you will be better served by informing your public. But as soon as you move to u-verse – you are not required to make any statement.

E-tv very concerned about liability concerns over broadcasting on the internet.
Insurance liability does cover internet a no additional cost.

Take possibly 14 out of 19 thousand surplus to become internet ready.

Roger points out the major cost will most likely be the video server.

V-brick is currently providing that cost as a donation.

Is this a possible way of doing the next shared service project???

V-brick one time purchase – but what is the ongoing annual cost?

Susan will open discussions with V-brick – please discuss in each of your towns if you see this as a feasible possibility.

Annual meetings discussion: In Wallingford.

Do we have an interest in doing an educational program? And ideas?

Richard has an idea for a program that shows people being taught how to edit, handle cameras, etc.. and then some short pieces (2-3 min) of the parade or veterans day ceremony, other slices of life in production. MARKETING PIECE.

Is there a talking head out there for this annual meeting? – otherwise we just have the business meeting with no talking head.

Everyone is asked to do some research and get back in touch about this issue.

A panel of speakers, elected official who has used public access, an independent producer, someone from education. People from different walks of life who use public access – and how important it is.

How about just independent producers. Pete and joel (experienced and new)... plus the adventurous bill!

	<p>Good idea. People behind it.</p> <p>Skip June. Do July 9th and July 30th.</p> <p>Motion for annual meeting and independent producer educational program on July 9th and no meeting in June, and meeting on July 30th by John Elliot. Marie Seconded.</p> <p>Bill, Pete, Joel are the talent – Houston as moderator. ON THE PARADE GROUND.</p> <p>8-8:30 requesting router support from Comcast and from each town.</p> <p>We can adopt the current officers in moving forward and hope for more bodies. If no one in the room wants to be an officer. Put forward the slate right now.</p> <p>John Elliot, the nominating committee chair, motions that the officers remain the same for the next year. And that we confirm that at the annual meeting. Francis seconds the motion.</p> <p>Joel motions to adjourn. John Elliot Seconds.</p>
7	
8	No public comments. Adjourn at 9:10 pm

----- MOTIONS / ACTION ITEMS -----

Business	Motion	By	Vote
Continued for April	To adopt Jan Minutes	No Quorum	No Updates or changes Identified
Continued for April	To adopt Financial Statement	No Quorum	No Updates or changes Identified

Business	Motion	By	Vote
New	To modify Meeting schedule in July to 5 th Thursday.		Agreed

----- NEXT STEPS / ACTION ITEMS -----

	Description	Assigned To	Due Date
1	Jan Item: Advisors to submit Highlights for web site	Madison –Susan No. Branford – Mary ETV- Bill	ASAP
2		Susan	
3		All Advisors	Received from Guilford only
4	Jan Item: Advisors to consider possible topics and formats for Annual mtg within the budget amount of \$250 or less	All Advisors	Suggestions to be reviewed in March Meeting
5	Jan Item: Update 2009 Calendar on Website and in Download Schedule	Susan	Done
6		Mary	Done



6	Jan Item: New Members advised provide contact info needed and review By-laws available on website.	P.L. /P.H	Incomplete
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