

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS** **February 4, 2024**  
**FROM: Hal Levy**  
**RE: MINUTES OF JANUARY 31, 2024 MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Jim Cameron, ~~David Dever~~, Mike Wheeler, Tim McGuire  
Easton: Doug Dempsey  
Greenwich: ~~Craig Jones~~, Horst Tebbe, ~~Don Conway~~, ~~Barbara Heins~~ ~~Sean Mayo~~  
New Canaan: ~~Paul Sedlak~~, Bob Doran, ~~Roman Cebulski~~  
Norwalk: Irene Dixon, ~~Mark Minnock~~, ~~John Frede~~  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford: ~~Eric Morson~~, ~~Ryan Fealey~~  
Weston:  
Westport: Hal Levy, ~~Stan Witkow~~, Natalie Carrignan  
Wilton: ~~Gary Battaglia~~, ~~Jeffrey Boehme~~, ~~Fran Kompar~~  
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino  
Altice: Esme Lombard  
Ed Committee:  
Guests:  
  
Excused: Barbara Heins (Greenwich)

Hal called the meeting to order at 5:07pm with seven towns represented.

1. **Minutes** of the December 13 meeting was approved as written.
2. **Financial Report** was approved with one typo correction.
3. **Old Business:**
  - On 12/22 Invoices were sent to Altice for \$2K Council funding and \$100K +\$25K for 2024 E&G funding. A request for Uverse pass through E&G funds TBD was also made for use on Round 2 grants. Esme will follow up on payment.
  - The 2023 A9CC Annual Report was filed with PURA on 1/8/24 and distributed to Council members, Area 9 town CEO's & schools superintendents,
  - **Status of appointments for current term:** There are Government appointments pending for Eric Morson from Stamford and Gary Battaglia from Wilton. Both indicated at the December meeting that appointments would be forthcoming. Bob Doran will follow up with Gary.
  - 2023 I-net reports due 2/1/24. Owed Education: \*Greenwich, \*Norwalk, \*Stamford, \*Weston, Wilton. Government: Easton, \*Greenwich, \*Stamford, \*Weston  
\* indicates no grants taken in 2023.
  - **SB 278 (2022) An Act Concerning A Study Of Community Access Programming Operations revenue:** This legislation is tied to PURA DOCKET NO. 22-06-26 to address the payment of PEG fees from sources other than Cable TV subscribers. We will monitor the legislation for progress during this year's short legislative session.

4. **2024 Round 1 grant program:** Subject to receipt of pending \$125,000 in funding from Altice
- \$62,460 each to E & G
  - 9 grants of \$6,940 on the Government side (Weston has opted out)
  - Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee
  - A maximum of \$3,000 for each grant could be allocated to operations
  - The deadline for submitting grants from the towns is May 17
  - The deadline for submitting grants from the schools is September 11
  - Unused Round 1 funds retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants
  - Eligibility requirements as outlined in the Grant Procedures <http://a9cc.org/GrantProcedures.pdf> shall apply to these grants

Delinquent Grant Reports:

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
Easton G	\$1,971.00	10/30/2023	12/29/2023	Extended to next meeting

5. **Access Channel Problems & Solutions:**

Jim brought up the problem of how to make recorded videos accessible for on-demand viewing. Since optimum does not provide the ability to DVR the access programs, on-demand viewing can only be accomplished by recording the meeting for online streaming. To make viewing for content practical, time stamping and chaptering the recordings are essential so viewers can quickly skip to the topics of interest in long meetings. Natalie said that Westport E & G do this using a product called CHAMP, which still requires some manual work. Mike W said that this might be accomplished at <https://youtubetranscript.com/> and Bard or Chatgpt. It was suggested that there were difficulties finding content on Vimeo but simpler with Youtube.

6. **Other Matters:**

- Esme discussed the Altice's support of cultivating STEM skills by partnering with *FIRST Robotics* <https://www.optimum.com/optimum-partners-with-firstrobotics>
- Mike D made an appeal to Altice to once again fund the upcoming EAAA. He will connect with Esme on the request.

Future Meetings: 3/20/2024, 5/29/2024 (All at 5PM on Zoom)

Meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.