

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, c/o Wilton Town Hall, 238 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT 06897 www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (February 6, 2013)

February 7, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:	David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:	Doug Dempsey
Greenwich:	Chris von Keyserling
New Canaan:	Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:	Herbert Grant, Erin Halsey, Art Scialabba,
Redding:	Robert Moran
Stamford:	Geza Ziegler
Weston:	Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport:	Hal Levy, Stan Witkow, Judith Freedman
Wilton:	Gary Battaglia, Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Cablevision:	Jennifer Young

Excused: Andy Anderson, (Easton), Paul Curtis and Stu Reider (Greenwich)

HL called the A9CC Meeting to order at 6.00 pm. 10 towns were represented.

1. **The minutes** of November were approved.
2. **The financial report** from the Treasurer was distributed and approved unanimously.
3. **Updates on old business:**
 - The A9CC Annual Report has been submitted to PURA, all municipal chief elected officials in Area 9, and to all Area 9 superintendents of schools. An updated corrected page was added by HL and sent to PURA. The entire report is available on the A9CC website.
 - The council submitted its invoice to Cablevision for annual operations support and received a check for \$2000 today.
 - The council has submitted invoices to Cablevision for access funds—including U-verse access funds that have accumulated since 2007—to support Area 9 town-specific E & G channels: PURA has previously approved Cablevision's and the A9CC's request that U-Verse access funds be administered by A9CC.
 - I-Net Log reports from our towns are included in the Annual Report submitted by Cablevision to PURA. These reports show the activity on our town-specific E and G-channels
4. **Final Consideration of 2012 Government Access Grant Requests**

All towns are up-to-date in their expenditure reports for 2011 grant funding. Grant requests were submitted by the 2/1/2013 deadline, sent to members, discussed, and approved as follows:

Darien and Weston—previously approved A9CC “Operations Grant” expenses.

Norwalk—Equipment for re-configuring the Common Council Chambers audio visual system--\$3,000.

Easton—Replacement of failing equipment and operations expenses--\$2874

New Canaan—Microphones and associated equipment for town meeting room--\$3000

Weston—Replacement of monitor, camera support--\$890.95

Redding—Encoder, camera stabilizer--\$1000

Westport—Re-wiring CH 79 equipment and relocating Ch 79 operations to new office in Westport Town Hall--\$3000

Darien

a. UPS unit for Ch 79 equipment, monitor--\$500

b. Funds for pre-paid Darien Channel 79 “debit-type” card—through Town of Darien—for small, miscellaneous equipment-related expenses, which often have been paid “out of pocket” by volunteer Channel 79 staff. Council discussed this proposal—as a “pilot” project—laying out the requirements for use, record-keeping, and reporting expenditures to A9CC--\$500.

Wilton—Purchase of two wireless microphones for audience participation at meetings covered by Channel 79, operations expenses--\$3000.

Please submit vouchers from each town within 30 days to A9CC.

5. Group discussion of rules/regulations regarding community access

HL led a discussion about community access rules and guidelines, as included in Cablevision’s obligations as a CAP provider, in federal rules for community access, and in several towns’ access policies. Rules were previously distributed to all members for review. Topics of discussion: prohibition against advertising—on public, educational, and governmental access channels-- any commercial product, promoting specific businesses (by programming, publishing contact information, etc.), advertising specific goods or providers of services, or attribution to any donors—subject to Cablevision’s discretion as the Area 9 CAP. Differences between community access (PEG) channels and public television stations (e.g., CPTV and PBS) were discussed, especially regarding public television stations’ ability to accept support from private foundations and corporate sponsors, unlike community access (PEG) entities. HL requested from Cablevision a copy, for the A9CC files, of any changes or updates to the community access rules.

6. 2013 Access Grants

The council discussed members’ suggestions for structuring the 2013 access fund grants when the funding is received from Cablevision. Topics covered: the E/G “split” of access funds, possible ways to accomplish better quality video transmission of E/G channels. To receive input from the Educational Access subcommittee of the A9CC, HL will request that a representative from the E-Access subcommittee attend the A9CC meetings on a regular basis.

7. Other Business

GB moved that, due to the increased cost of providing a light dinner for members attending each A9CC meeting, A9CC increase the limit for total dinner expenses per meeting from \$85 to \$115. Approved unanimously.

8. Next meeting: April 3, 2013 in Easton—Easton Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Secretary