



TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (March 21, 2007)

March 22, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever
Easton:
Greenwich: Stu Reider
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: Marge Costa
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy, Jeff Stollenwerck
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky
Cablevision: Jennifer Nacewicz

The meeting began at 6:05 pm at the Norwalk Town Hall with 9 towns represented. Dolly Curtis, a public access producer from Easton, attended as a guest.

HL announced that Westport representative David Dreyfuss has resigned and welcomed Jeff Stollenwerck who was appointed in his place. HL also announced that Richard Seclow, Easton, has submitted his resignation to Easton's First Selectman. No replacement has been named yet.

Gary Shaw of Cablevision is no longer assigned to CT and Jennifer is now managing CT governmental affairs on a full-time basis.

1. Minutes. The ANCC approved the minutes of the February 7, 2007 meeting with no changes. HL thanked Geza Ziegler for filling in for CYK by completing the minutes of that meeting.

2. Discussion of HB 7182. HL reviewed the purpose and specific features of this proposed legislation which would create a certification process for entities proposing to deliver video services using emerging technologies such as IPTV. HL reviewed sections relating to prohibition of "red-lining" but containing no build-out requirements, requirements to carry community access stations and CT-N, requirements for a statewide advisory council, gross receipts taxes, and conditions under which existing CATV operators may seek certification instead of a franchise.

DS clarified subscriber fee collection and the requirement that subscribers' fees be distributed to towns to support community access. SR asked whether Cablevision supports HB7182 and accepts HB 7182 as establishing as level a playing field as currently possible. JN responded affirmatively. JR questioned Sec. 11 regarding free service to schools and libraries.

The ANCC agreed to write a general letter of support with specific suggestions for strengthening the bill's effect on the interests of subscribers, public libraries, and schools. HL requests that ANCC members read the bill and submit comments to CYK

for drafting an ANCC submission for consideration to the Connecticut General Assembly's Finance and Appropriations Committee. Please include section and paragraph references with your comments.

[Read the bill at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/TOB/H/2007HB-07182-R00-HB.htm>]

3. Treasurer's Report. Reflects \$11,968.16 in the Government Access account, \$21,875.46 in the Educational Access account and \$7,957.12 in the ANCC account. Accepted unanimously.

4. Cablevision Franchise License 05-04-10 (Sec. 7.13) HL reviewed discussions and correspondence with CV regarding the ownership of town-originated programming and an interpretation of the meaning of "exclusive use of subscribers" in reference to locally generated G/E programming. He reminded the group that the ANCC's G and E grants—collected through subscriber fees—are not the only funding source for E and G Access programming. For example, towns supplement the grant funding by providing personnel to operate their channels, paying videographers, and purchasing additional equipment. Some towns Webstream their programming onto the Internet.

Motion: DS moved that the ANCC ask Cablevision to provide written commentary on Section 7.13, regarding simulcasting or transmission of local programming through technologies available to other than cable subscribers. **Second:** DD.

Discussion: HL noted that this stipulation was not contained in CV's former franchise agreement, but is a new stipulation in the current agreement. RM raised the issue of freedom of speech and noted related cases in Boston and elsewhere.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

[Members can check the DPUC Website and the ANCC Website <http://westportct.net/ancc/> for final details of the decision.]

5. Update on 2007 Access Budget. HL, DS, JN, and Myles Rich met and agreed to the ANCC's \$100,000 access grant proposal to support E and G in Area Nine for 2007. Issues to be settled include:

- procedures for treatment of any previous year's leftover funds
- procedures for acquiring supplemental equipment—to be considered by MR.
- necessary training for public access producers in use of editing equipment.

JR offered assistance in training to DC on Casablanca editing equipment providing that DC, in turn, help train others.

JN requested an invoice for payment of the \$100,000 access grant. HL will arrange for this to be sent.

6. Other PEG Issues

- **2007 Educational Access Awareness Program (EAAA) awards.**

JR described the successful outcome of this program which is designed to get students involved in video. Approximately \$4000 (Educational Access funds) will go for equipment to the schools of the award winners. He thanked CV for their additional \$1000 contribution to this year's awards.

- **ANCC Meeting Hosts to Provide Overview of E/G Operations.**

Beginning next month in Darien, HL requested (on behalf of Jim Cameron—Darien) that the host town of each ANCC meeting to provide a tour or review of the town's operations. DD reported that Darien was ready to step up.

- **Public Access Concerns**

As an ex officio public access consultant to the ANCC, DC related concerns over the audio quality and the abundance of religious programming on PA. DS suggested that CV should decide on standards for audio quality on an individual basis.

7. Bylaws. HL submitted revisions for consideration by ANCC. JR suggested a grammatical change to the draft bylaws.

SR suggested that the bylaws include, for prudent checks and balances, a provision for 2 signatures on each check issued. Several members agreed in principle, but believed that the logistics to be unwieldy. DS noted that the ANCC's procedures have been OK'ed by the DPUC.

SR suggested that the role of the treasurer as compliance officer be included in the bylaws with the provision that he oversee the appropriateness of financial expenditures, such as those approved by the ANCC in a special session in June 2006. HL indicated that the bylaws contain such a provision already in Article 4: Section 3 whereby the procedure for treasurer, chairman, and council approval for expenditures over \$250 is outlined. CYK will forward minutes of the June 2006 meeting to SR.

Please review the final version of the bylaws for voting at the April 25 meeting.

8. New Government Access Grants from unencumbered access funds. The ANCC approved 5 grants—all submitted within the ANCC deadline from communities whose past expenditure reports are complete. Approved were requests from Darien--\$2000, Greenwich---\$1917, New Canaan--\$2000, Westport-- \$1908.75, Wilton--\$1912.68.

Payment of grant funds is subject to availability.

Greenwich has a Mini-T pro available. Contact SR for more information.

9. Annual Meeting—Wednesday, May 30. HL to explore restaurant choice. Members were requested to suggest guest speakers and e-mail HL .

10. Other matters

- Cablevision PSA Day: JC will be the on air talent for a PEG PSA on March 28.
- The ANCC expressed appreciation to JN for her role in helping to resolve a billing issues with Ogden House, Wilton's HUD-supported, Section 8 senior living complex.
- Wilton is seeking a PSA on boating safety for its G channel.

Future meeting schedule-- 4/25 in Darien. **Annual Meeting**—5/30