

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: Hal Levy**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2021 MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**March 25, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Jim Cameron, Dave Dever, Joan McGettigan  
Easton: Doug Dempsey, Andy Anderson  
Greenwich: Barbara Heins, Craig Jones, Horst Tebbe  
New Canaan: Bob Doran, Roman Cebulski  
Norwalk: Irene Dixon, Mark Minnock  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford: Bob Lion, Paula Ward  
Weston: Don Saltzman  
Westport: Hal Levy, Natalie Carrigan  
Wilton: Gary Battaglia, Jeffrey Boehme, Fran Kompar  
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino  
Altice: Esme Lombard  
Ed Committee: Julie Casper Roth (NCC)  
Guests:

Excused: Paul Sedlak (New Canaan); Stan Witkow (Westport)

Chairman Hal Levy called the Zoom meeting to order at 5:02pm with ten towns represented. Hal announced that Trevor Kline has been appointed as the Norwalk Education Council member.

1. **Minutes** of the February 3 meeting was approved.
2. **Financial Report** was approved. It was noted that payments for \$2K Cable Advisory Council support and \$100K + \$25K for 2021 E&G access funding was received from Altice.
3. **Old Business:**
  - Esme will check on the status of the U-verse pass-through payment.
  - I-Net logs have not yet been received from Greenwich E, Norwalk E, Weston E, Easton G, Weston G and Wilton G. Convent of Sacred Heart was asked to submit program logs although it is not an I-Net site but receives grant money to produce programming on the Greenwich E channel. Towns and schools that have not filed I-Net or program will not qualify for future grants.
  - Hi-Def PEG channels: Bob Doran has sent emails to the Committee to begin collaboration on producing solutions for delivering Hi-Def access channels. Esme will provide viewership statistics for channels 78 & 79 in each town
  - TiVo and Switched Video: Esme reported that Altice will not rent tuning adapters to Optimum subscribers using TiVo boxes so that they may again be able to receive standard Def and music channels. However, she will check if they can be provided at the Optimum Store to Optimum subscribers using TiVo.
4. **2021 Round 1 grant program**

\$62,500 each to E & G. 10 grants of \$6,250 on the Government side. Allocation of the Educational portion will be determined by the Ed Committee. A maximum of \$2,500 for each grant could be allocated to operations. The deadline for submitting Government grants is May 12. The Council voted to extend the Educational deadline to 2 weeks before the September meeting (TBD). Any funds not encumbered in Round 1 will be retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants

The following applications were reviewed:

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
New Canaan G	\$6,250.00	\$1,750.00	Approved
Darien G	\$5,608.00	0	Approved
Wilton E	\$6,249.07	\$2,500.00	Approved

Delinquent Grant Reports

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
CSH E	\$8,927.71	12/1/2020	1/30/2021	Will request refund
Easton G	\$2,500.00	12/21/2020	2/19/2021	Extended to next meeting
Wilton G	\$2,500.00	9/9/2020	3/8/2021	Extended to next meeting

**5. New Programming options for access channels**

Jim announced that Darien TV79 has tapped into a goldmine of community produced interviews and lectures from its local library, men's association and many NGO's. These types of programming have proliferated during the pandemic and the explosion of Zoom Webinars. They supplement nicely their gavel to gavel meeting coverage and have helped them become a Community as well as Government TV station. Jim also spoke about Darien's sharing of programming with Greenwich and New Canaan and encouraged more sharing of programming amongst Area 9 towns. Jim will email the group with more details about available programming.

**6. Docket Number 21-02-52 -The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority Annual Community Access Support Review**

Every year PURA determines the amount per subscriber that each cable company charges their subs to finance the PEG channels. Heretofore this was uncontested and PURA just bumped the number by the inflation rate. This year it is a contested case meaning that the PURA docket will now have parties and intervenors who can file briefs supporting their positions in the matter of Community Access Support. The Cable Advisory Councils, such A9CC have automatic intervenor status in the docket. Currently the rate in Area 9 is \$5 per year per subscriber. We will follow the docket and submit filings in support of Access in Area 9 as may be necessary. Esme will meet with her team and report back to the Coucil regarding Altice's position.

**7. Other Matters**

- Just before this meeting, Esme sent an email to our members containing 1) Altice in CT Fact Sheet highlighting information about our footprint and the services we provide in addition to the commitment we have made to the communities in our footprint. 2) Two newsletters highlighting Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March) and how Altice celebrated throughout our footprint. 3) Some Optimum Resources that may help customers.
- Andy thanked Altice for its help in getting out a technically complex transmission in Easton.
- Mike noted the excellent work a number of Education members have done in facilitating access programming done by students and is hopeful that Altice will support their efforts in an upcoming awards event.

Future meeting: Annual Meeting on 5/26/21 5:00pm via Zoom. No election this year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm