



TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (April 23, 2008)

April 25, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson
Greenwich: Paul Curtis
New Canaan:
Norwalk: Herb Grant, Marge Costa
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Harvey Bellin, Don Saltzman, Peggy Jorgensen
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky, Harry Somerdyk
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm in Redding, with 9 towns represented. Bob Moran introduced a guest, Chris Helland. HL thanked Redding for hosting the meeting and for a pre-meeting tour of the Channel 79 access center.

1. Minutes. The group unanimously approved the minutes of the March 19, 2008 meeting with no changes.

2. Treasurer's Report. JR presented the report to the Council. We have \$8938.94 in the ANCC account and \$101,968.42 in the ANCC Access Escrow Account which includes the \$100,000 PEG funds transferred from Cablevision to ANCC in March. Norwalk and Redding have not submitted vouchers for their previously-approved grants. Expense reports of past grants must be submitted before applying for new grants. Forms are available from the ANCC Website.

Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

3. Old Business: DPUC Docket 07-10-11. Decision about the public, educational and governmental programming and education technology investment account (PEGPETIA or Account). HL and CYK reviewed the DPUC decision on this docket which establishes guidelines for applying for funding from the PEGPETIA account that was created by last year's competitive video provider law 07-253. CYK will send the link to the DPUC decision/guidelines for all cable council members to read. Fifty percent (50%) of the monies from this fund will be earmarked for educational technology initiatives and 50% will be directed toward expanding PEG programming and quality. JY suggested that the staff person who worked on the decision might be a source of further information in case of questions. The first round of funding will be available on August 1, 2008 and quarterly thereafter. The council members raised a couple ideas on how the 10-towns might cooperate in a joint application.

4. Review RB 5814 "An Act Concerning Community Access Television.

HL, DS, and CYK reviewed the status of this legislation which is currently on the House

“Go List” but, to date, has not been called for a vote. The ANCC unanimously voted to send letters to state legislators supporting the legislation, but indicating ongoing concerns that might be addressed next year. Community access providers and the public continue to be concerned about interconnection costs and on-going expenses of getting PEG programming onto the new systems of new competitive video service providers. Additional concerns were raised about the quality of transmission, slow-loading, and problems with accessing PEG channels under AT&T’s U-Verse system. CYK will draft a suggested letter for ANCC members to use to contact their state legislators.

To date, no PEG programming from Area Nine is on the U-Verse system. Members reiterated that subscribers should not have to pay for interconnection costs for PEG programming nor should municipalities. Members recommended that interconnection costs, maintenance, and equipment costs should be discussed with each town’s attorney before any municipality signs a contract with competitive video providers for acquiring PEG programming and that members keep each other informed about the progress in negotiations in each town for getting PEG programming to customers of competitive video providers.

5. DPUC Docket 08-02-11 DPUC Review of Reporting Requirements Pursuant to Public Act 07-253. See Item 6.

6. DPUC Docket 08-04-02 DPUC Investigation of the need to Impose Federal Rate Regulation Requirements on Certified Cable Franchise Authority (CCFA) Providers.

HL reviewed both of these dockets which pertain to loosening various requirements for reporting and rate-setting under the new legislation 07-253 for companies that become CCFAs under the so-called “cable light” regulations.

7. Nominating Committee. The ANCC elected a nominating committee which will present a slate of officers for election at the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be in order at the Annual Meeting. Elected to the ANCC Nominating Committee are Geza Ziegler, Don Saltzman, and Harry Somerdyk.

8. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 28 at Bogey’s in Westport. CYK will pursue a speaker. Members were interested in inviting Energy and Technology Co-Chair Representative Steve Fontana and State Representative Kim Fawcett. The ANCC will pay for dinner for members and speaker(s). Details about prices, time, and menu choices will follow.

9. Weston Grant Request. Weston submitted past due grant expenditure reports and requested \$1826.60 for necessary equipment costs. HL briefly reviewed the policies for grant submissions to the ANCC and suggested a more detailed future session on procedures, expenditure reports, and other required documentation for all ANCC members—both new and experienced. The Weston grant was approved, with one opposing vote (JC).

10. New Business.

a. Darien, Greenwich, and New Canaan G-channels distributed to ANCC members

copies of recently recorded regional programs that appeared on their G-channel. Two programs are about the regional lawsuit against the FAA regarding flight paths in Fairfield County and the third is a LWV-sponsored panel discussion about legislative and nonprofit environmental projects.

b. JY announced that CV is moving 8 channels to the digital service tier and that announcements will be sent to customers in May. The channel locations will remain the same. An iO digital cable box or CableCard will be required to view any of these channels migrating to digital. Residential offers include: a digital converter/remote control and iO Navigation Package free for one year; free professional installation for analog only customers available upon request. PC reported that a QAM tuner will convert the signal also.

c. JY announced that Cablevision will be offering a group grant of equipment to the 10 towns' G-channels for next year at an estimated cost to CV of approximately \$25,000. The 10 towns should collaborate on a decision of what equipment is most needed and report back to Cablevision by May 28. JR and PC will develop the ANCC proposal.

d. DD recommended a book by media consultant Shelly Palmer, [Television Disrupted: The Transition from Network to Networked TV](#). PJ recommended his MediaBytes, a filtered daily news service about technology, media, and entertainment at www.shellypalmermedia.com

11. Future meeting schedule—Bogey's, Westport, Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
ANCC