

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 (April 6, 2011)

April 7, 2011

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson, Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Paul Curtis
New Canaan:
Norwalk: Herbert Grant
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Paul Sedlak (New Canaan), Stu Reider (Greenwich), Lisa Bogan (Wilton), Chris Von Keyserling (Greenwich), Judith Friedman (Westport), Harvey Bellin (Weston), Roger Williams (New Canaan).

Guest: Jerry Holdridge (Wilton, Public)

Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm, welcomed members, and thanked Bob Moran of Redding for hosting the meeting.

1. The minutes of February 16, 2011 were approved with the following corrections:

Andy Anderson was excused from the February 16, 2011 meeting. Item #3 should read "DVR" and Item #7 should read, "...State Representative Kim Fawcett (Westport/Fairfield).

2. The financial report provided by the Treasurer was distributed and approved. HG

reported a balance of \$119,296.13 in the Escrow Account, reflecting the receipt of \$100,000 in E- and G-Access funds from Cablevision. The balance in the Operations Account is \$11,811.68.

HL suggested a modification of the Agenda to allow for Public Comment.

Mr. Holdridge requested clarification from Cablevision of several items: difficulty in locating several channels through use of his Qam tuner, lack of notification of offer of free converter boxes until offer had expired, dissatisfaction with loss of several channels in the Family Package, and unavailability of several CT affiliates of major networks. JY (Cablevision) explained that notices had been sent out to all subscribers about the free offers and program changes and offered the latest listings of channel frequencies-publicly available-for use of Qam tuner. HL reviewed the effect of federal deregulation of the cable and telecommunications industry on programming and rate setting.

3. Old business - HL reported the A9CC website was operational and that e-mail will be able to be forwarded to individual A9CC members through encrypted addresses. Funds to maintain the A9CC website come from the council's operating funds, not from the escrow account for E/G support.

4. Discussion: *Using Social Media to Promote Your Program*

JC led a discussion about Darien's use of Facebook and partnership with Darien Patch which publishes Darien 79's TV program schedule, meetings, and shooting schedule.

PC (Greenwich) described their partnership with the Greenwich Time and Greenwich Post. PC includes their Tweets on the Greenwich TV79 website adjacent to the live stream. PC agreed to write a brief overview of how this is structured. He also reminded the group that a municipality must grant permission—verbal or written—for a re-broadcast of its programming, although Fair Use principles cover personal use.

5. To Review HB 6460 An Act Concerning Public Access Channels

CYK and PC reviewed this proposed legislation which has been favorably voted out of the Energy & Technology Committee of the legislature. Although there may be additional changes, it will next go to the floor of the House for a vote. Although much of the legislation does not pertain to Area 9, since Area 9 does not have a 3rd-party community access provider, there are some aspects of the legislation that the Area 9 Cable Council wishes to support, such as adding labor and staff expenses to the allowable uses of funds used to create town-specific community access programming. The council also supports the spirit of the legislation in that it promotes town-specific community access programming as an important service to residents. CYK and HL will draft a letter to Area 9 legislators on behalf of the council expressing our support and urging passage of the bill. Latest version is available at

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/FC/2011HB-06460-R000490-FC.htm>

6. Grant Program –FY 2011 Access Support

The FY 2011 access funds will be split between E-channels and G-channels in a 60/40 split to encourage E- channels to improve their operations and catch up to the G-channels. HL requested assistance from A9CC members in determining common equipment needs for submission to CV. Reminder: Towns must submit expenditure reports for past grants before they can become eligible for new grants. HL reminded the group that expenditures of the recent \$1000 operating grants recently awarded to 7 towns for G-staff time should include time sheets and/or another means of accounting for hours worked, such as canceled payroll checks or 1099s.

The A9CC approved the following G-Access grants, noting that labor and staff costs are still not allowable expenses, except for items such as installation or repair of equipment. The applications for these grant requests were distributed with the meeting agenda.

New Canaan: \$3463

Westport: \$5000 (Town of Westport will supplement this with \$900 in town funds.)

Weston: \$4839

Redding: \$3000

Wilton's grant request was withdrawn and will be re-submitted at the next A9CC meeting.

7. Other matters

PC requested copies of job descriptions for videographers from A9 towns. Wilton submitted one to him already.

CYK announced that, after waiting for more than a year, Wilton had received a grant award from the DPUC's PEGPETIA program to equip the Wilton Town Hall Annex meeting room for broadcast of board and commission meetings.

JY reviewed changes to the iO Silver and Gold packages and the launch of DVR Plus. These items have been announced to customers in their monthly statements.

8. 2011 Meeting Schedule: 6/1-Annual Meeting at Southport Brewing Company. Please send suggestions for guest speaker to HL.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary, A9CC

April 7, 2011