

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, 17 Crawford Road, Westport, CT 06880

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Hal Levy for Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2015 MEETING IN EASTON

April 9, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson
Greenwich: Paul Curtis
New Canaan:
Norwalk: Herbert Grant, Art Scialabba
Redding:
Stamford:
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin, Kosta Myzithras
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow, Jennifer Cirino
Wilton: Gary Battaglia
Cablevision: Jennifer Young
Guests: Erik Haakonsen, Chad Anderson, Robert Webe

Excused: Doug Dempsey (Easton); Stu Reider, Chris von Keyserling (Greenwich); Paul Sedlak (New Canaan); Erin Herring (Norwalk); Bob Moran (Redding); Judi Freedman (Westport); Phil Sharlach (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the A9CC Meeting to order at 6:15pm. 7 towns were represented. Hal thanked Andy Anderson for hosting. The new educational member Kosta Myzithras from Weston was welcomed to the Council. Kosta replaces Erik Haakonsen who was also in attendance. Easton channel technicians Chad Anderson, Robert Webe were in attendance and acknowledged.

1. **Minutes** of February 5 were approved as written.
2. **Financial report** from the Treasurer was distributed, discussed and approved.
3. **Updates on old business:**
 - Grant applications have been revised with the entries "How many hours a week does your town broadcast video programming?" and "How many different programs are broadcast each week?" put into tabular form.
 - A9CC Membership to the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) has expired. The Council voted to renew at dues not to exceed \$150.
 - I-Net reports have not been received from the following: E: Darien, Easton, Norwalk, Stamford, Redding, Wilton; G: Easton, Stamford, Wilton. I-Net logs must be submitted to Council prior to new grant applications.
4. **Status of infrastructure upgrade of town-specific access channels:**

New digital encoders / decoders and accessory equipment will be installed for Greenwich Channel 79 shortly as the beta site. Once proven, Darien 79 will be installed followed by New Canaan 78 & 79. Paul Curtis will work with CV to create an installation checklist to help in the subsequent installations.

Cablevision is providing a \$25,000 equipment grant for 2015, which the Council will apply towards the \$96K needed for the purchase of more equipment to complete the system-wide upgrade.

Two sets of digital encoders / decoders are to be retained as spares. If more are needed to replace failed equipment in the future, the equipment will be purchased out of access funds and installed by CV at no charge.

5. **2015 access grant requests**

- Weston Educational equipment grant request for \$10,200 presented by Kosta Myzithras and Erik Haakonsen was approved.
- Jennifer Cirino presented an educational equipment grant request for Westport. After the Educational Access Committee approved this grant, it was suggested that a different Video Mixer be purchased to achieve the criteria needed. The Council voted to approve the grant pending the resubmission of model numbers and pricing not to exceed \$14,500 and that the revised application be approved at the Educational Committee's May meeting. Jennifer asked that recommendations for an alternate switcher be emailed to her.

An inquiry was made on pooling buys of common equipment amongst E&G channels. It was suggested that any town or school looking for specific equipment, email the group asking if there is interest in the item. B&H gives quantity discounts.

6. **Plan for Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held on June 3rd at Bertucci's in Westport. Details will be emailed to A9CC members. A motion was approved that A9CC members who have not attended a single meeting during the fiscal year are not eligible to attend the Annual Meeting. Members are asked to email Hal with suggestions for a guest speaker.

7. **Other business**

CV will be offering *HBO Now* to Optimum Online subscribers for \$14.95 per month without requiring a Video subscription. These ala carte streaming services may be the company's new alternative in delivering some video services.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm

Next meeting is June 3, 2015 in Westport