

# A.9.C.C.

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

www.a9cc.org

**TO: A9CC MEMBERS** **April 13, 2017**  
**FROM: Hal Levy for Judith Freedman, Secretary**  
**RE: MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2017 MEETING IN NEW CANNAN**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Jim Cameron, David Dever  
Easton: Doug Dempsey  
Greenwich: Chris von Keyserling, Susan Morris  
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak  
Norwalk: Kyle Seaburg  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford:  
Weston: Juscelino Acevedo  
Westport: Hal Levy, Jennifer Cirino  
Wilton: Phil Sharlach, Gary Battaglia, Fran Kompar  
Altice: Jennifer Young  
Ed Committee:  
Guests:

Excused: Marc Marin (Darien); Andy Anderson (Easton); Stu Reider (Greenwich); Harvey Bellin, Don Saltzman (Weston); Stan Witkow, Judi Freedman (Westport)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm with nine towns represented.

Recently appointed education members Kyle Seaburg, Juscelino Acevedo and Fran Kompar introduced themselves to the Council.

1. **Minutes** of February 15, 2017 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Financial Report** from the Treasurer was distributed, discussed and approved. Altice submitted a check for \$39,237.45 from U-verse access fees to be used for E&G grants.
3. **Updates on old business:**
  - 2016 I-Net reports requested by 2/1/17 have not received from the following: Edu: Easton/Redding, New Canaan, Weston. These have missed the deadline for filing with PURA. Can still submit in order to qualify for grants.
  - Member appointments: No appointments made for Edu: Easton/Redding, New Canaan, Stamford; Gov: Stamford, Norwalk. Letters will be going out to town CEO's and school superintendents in June for new 2-year appointments covering 7/1/2017 – 6/30/2019.
  - Altice WFSB reached a carriage agreement with WFSB on March 17<sup>th</sup> and the channel has been restored.
  - Altice Access Funding: In uncontested PURA docket 17-01-09 proposed final decision on 4/11/17, the commission reduced the Norwalk area annual per sub PEG support from \$5.85 to \$4.74 for 2017. This was a response to a letter from Altice citing reduced operating expenses in the Norwalk Public Access Studio due to *"First, we have made equipment upgrades and taken other steps to improve administration of the Norwalk System, leading to a more efficient operation. Second, the evolution of technology has allowed individuals to produce PEG programming with their own equipment rather than using the facilities provided."* *"Altice USA proposes to spend the existing \$200,000 surplus on improvements to public, education, and government access over a five-year*

**2017 Access Grant Applications:** Hal thanked those applicants who submitted their applications before the deadlines and thus balancing the workload of processing applications. The following applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Notes/Status
Darien E	\$8,487.00	Approved with one dissent
Westport E	\$8,500.00	Approved
Norwalk E	\$8,500.00	Approved
Wilton E	\$8,499.76	Approved
Easton G	\$5,200.00	Approved
Darien G	\$6,207.02	Approved
Redding G	\$4,200.00	Approved

Easton G, New Canaan G and Redding G have previously received pre-approved operations grants of \$2,500 each.

The deadline for 2017 round 1 grants is the Monday before the Annual Meeting (5/29<sup>1</sup>) for government applications and the Monday before the September meeting (9/11<sup>1</sup>) for education applications. (<sup>1</sup>tentative)

Hal noted that all grant activity from 2004 to the present can be tracked at <http://www.a9cc.org/Report Checklist.xls>, including the “owed” tab which displays the grant eligibility status for all town entities.

- 4. **Plan for the Annual Meeting:** The tentative date for the Annual Meeting is May 31. Members suggested some possible venues – Redding Roadhouse, Spinning Wheel, Westport Inn, Easton Senior Center. Other ideas are welcome. The primary prerequisite is that the venue has a private area large enough to accommodate about 2 dozen people. Criteria for previous Annual Meetings will apply. For a program, Doug and Bob have volunteered to make a demonstration of video production. This would require wifi available at the venue. Other suggestions for speakers are welcome. Members will be contacted by email on details as they become available.

5. **Other Matters**

Phil inquired whether the Council might reconsider funding drones for video recording in future grant applications. Discussion followed for which the consensus appeared to be that the use of drones should only be contracted with qualified, insured vendors who offer such services in order to avoid the liabilities associated with the ownership and operation of such equipment.

The next A9CC meeting is tentatively 5/31/2017. This will be verified once a venue for the Annual Meeting is set.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30