

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2021 MEETING VIA ZOOM
Revised: July 14, 2021

May 28, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

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

Excused: Paul Sedlak (New Canaan); Mark Minnock (Norwalk); Natalie Carrignan, Stan Witkow (Westport);

Chairman Hal Levy called the Zoom meeting to order at 5:01pm with ten towns represented. Hal announced that this is the Annual Meeting as stipulated in the by-laws, however there is no election of officers this year.

1. **Minutes** of the March 24 meeting was approved.
2. **Financial Report** was approved. It was noted that payment for \$12,768.54 U-verse pass-through E&G access funding was received from Altice and will be applied to Round 2 grants.
3. **Old Business:**
 - Nothing new to report from the Hi-Def PEG channel committee.
 - The council reviewed viewership stats supplied by Esme for E&G access channels. It was noted that Stamford had the highest viewership probably attributed to its full-time programming of Covid issues. Questions arose to why the stats increased significantly after October and it was speculated that it might have to do with a change in rules of interpretation. Esme said that this was proprietary data that should not be published but could be shared with Town leaders.
 - **Docket 21-02-52: THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY ANNUAL COMMUNITY ACCESS SUPPORT REVIEW:** Although PURA changed this to a contested docket, the docket followed its traditional route. The Final Decision issued today (5/26) increases access support for all "franchises" by the CPI of 1.4% which brings Area 9 to \$5.07 per subscriber per year. It was noted that Area 9, due to the efficiency of its model in delivering town-specific access programming, has the lowest cost in the state, thereby benefiting the rates paid by its subscribers. Hal will email a copy of the decision to members.

4. 2021 Round 1 grant program:

The following applications were reviewed:

| Town/School | Amount | Ops | Notes/Status |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Westport G | \$6,250.00 | \$2,500.00 | Approved |
| Redding G | \$3,750.00 | 0 | Approved |
| Easton G | \$6,250.00 | 0 | Approved |
| Darien E | \$6,295.00 | 0 | Approved |

Delinquent Grant Reports

| Town/School | Amount | Date Paid | Date Due | Notes/Status |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| New Canaan E | \$2,000.00 | 11/14/2019 | 5/2/2020 | Extended to next meeting |
| Weston G | \$4,000.00 | 12/21/2020 | 2/19/2021 | Pending status of rep |
| New Canaan G | \$6,250.00 | 3/25/2021 | 5/25/2021 | Extended to next meeting |

The deadline for Educational Grants is 2 weeks before the September meeting. After which, Round 2 grants will be created for E&G from each of its remaining funds not encumbered in Round 1 plus ½ of the \$12,768.54 U-verse funds.

5. **Student Film Showcase:** Fran made a presentation of the special 2021 Student Film Showcase offered to Area 9 school districts this year in lieu of the traditional Educational Access Awareness Awards. Films were collected in several categories and put together in a showcase featuring the selections. It is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/5Vv-qyINpYc> and features some great student-created videos. A sampling of several of the videos was shown. A discussion ensued regarding music copyright issues on streaming services and non monetization and educational fair use exemptions.
6. **A9CC meeting schedule for 2021-22** (See “Future meetings” below)
7. **Other Matters**
- Letters will be sent to CEO’s & Superintendents next month requesting A9CC member appointments for the new 2-year terms commencing on July 1, 2021. Let your mayor, 1st Selectperson or Superintendent know if you’re interested in continuing to serve.

Future meetings: 9/22/21, 10/27/21, 12/15/21, 2/2/22, 3/23/22, 5/25/22. All 5:00pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm