

A.9.C.C.

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

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TO: A9CC MEMBERS **September 10, 2015**
FROM: Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING AT CABLEVISION

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson, Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Stuart Reider
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: Herbert Grant, Art Scialabba, Erin Herring
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford:
Weston: Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman
Wilton: Gary Battaglia, Mathew Hepfer
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Harvey Bellin (Weston); Stan Witkow (Westport); Phil Sharlach (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:08pm with nine towns represented. He welcomed Wilton's new Education member Mathew Hepfer and noted that Susan Morris was also appointed as the Education member from Greenwich and will be serving as the Ed Committee's grants coordinator.

1. **Minutes** of June 3 2015 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Financial report** from the Treasurer was distributed, discussed and approved.
3. **Updates on old business:**
 - I-Net reports have not been received from the following: E: Darien, Easton, Norwalk, Stamford, Redding and Wilton; G: Stamford. I-Net logs must be submitted to Council prior to new grant applications.
 - The Council has not received appointment letters from Government CEO's (Darien, Easton, New Canaan, Redding, Norwalk and Stamford) and Schools Superintendents (Easton/Redding, Greenwich, Norwalk and Stamford). Members were reminded to contact the proper authority to assure those appointments are made

4. **Status of infrastructure upgrade of town-specific access channels:**

New digital encoders / decoders and accessory equipment has been installed for Greenwich, Darien, Weston and Westport Channel 79's and Greenwich and Darien channel 78's. Reports from some of the initial installations were that there was not a marked improvement in signal quality compared to the old modulators, but it was pointed out that the signal is still being sent to the subscribers as analog and that improvements are anticipated in system maintenance and in transmit sites further from the headend. Those will be installed later. Cablevision has no current plans to deliver access channels in HD. Jennifer will report by the next meeting whether additional equipment, which will be purchased from access funds will be paid directly by the Council or reimbursed to CV.

5. 2015 access grant program:

- Weston's \$10,200.00 E-Grant was approved 4/8 but the payment voucher was never sent despite numerous emails to the applicant and various other parties. A motion made by Erin Herring and seconded by Jim Cameron was passed to uphold the existing policy to void the grant since the paperwork was not submitted within 30 days.
- Hal noted the large amount of access funds still remain in the escrow account. The account, has a balance of over \$261K despite that all unencumbered funds have been made available for 2015 grants after factoring in the \$71K set aside for the system upgrade. A flurry of applications are now expected by the 10/16 deadline but he asked that applicants not to wait until the deadline to submit their applications. He further noted that there would undoubtedly be a second round of 2015 grants, which would be acted on at the 12/9 meeting and that it was extremely important that the grants account be significantly dispatched by this date, before the access report for 2015 is filed with PURA. Don Saltzman spoke about the need for major expenditures on camera replacement and Hal said that as part of the round 2 grants, it might be a good idea to create fewer but larger grants which would be acted on, on a first come first served basis.
- Andy Anderson brought up the need for larger operations grants for town channels that do not receive support from their municipalities. It was pointed out that operations grants have been increasing and that a proper balance of operations and equipment funding should be maintained.

6. Other Matters

- Jennifer announced that Mike Chowaniec has left Cablevision
- Jim Cameron noted that the Council had approved a grant for Norwalk Community College which included a drone with the stipulation that the equipment, when available may be used by other E&G access channels in Area 9 as long as there is an approved qualified operator supervising. Jim tried contacting the applicant Stoney Duren about using the drone and was told that he was on indefinite sabbatical. Jim will try to get more details.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Next meeting is October 21, 2015 in Norwalk. Future meetings are 12/9/2015 at the Wilton Library; 2/24/2016 in New Canaan Town Hall; 4/6/2016 in Easton and 6/1/2016 TBD