

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council c/o Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897
www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM:
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (October 29, 2008)

October 30, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

Darien:	David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:	Andy Anderson, Leighton Jordan
Greenwich:	Paul Curtis
New Canaan:	Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:	Herb Grant
Redding:	Robert Moran
Stamford:	Geza Ziegler
Weston:	Don Saltzman
Westport:	Hal Levy
Wilton:	Harry Somerdyk, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky
Cablevision:	Jennifer Young
Public:	Christopher von Keyserling (Grn)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm at CV in Easton, with 10 towns represented. Harvey Bellin (Weston), Marge Costa (Norwalk), Judith Freedman and Jeff Stollenwerck (Westport), Stu Reider (Greenwich) excused.

Opening comments from Chairman Levy: Thanked Andy & Leighton for hosting. Guest introduced.

1. **Minutes** of the Sept. 16 approved.
2. **Treasurer's report:** JR did not have spreadsheets (will be sent via e-mail). HL noted the current balances: ANCC Account: Opening balance - \$8,178.56; Checks - \$71.71; Int - \$0.36; Closing Bal: \$8,107.21. He noted that the \$100 ACM membership authorized at the last meeting has not yet been paid.
Escrow Account: Opening - \$101,839.55; Checks - \$28768.15; Closing - \$73,071.40.
(See e-mail from JR dated 10/30/2008.)
3. **Old Business:**
 - **Equipment Grants.** Jennifer distributed the new nNovia decks to the 4 towns.
(Easton, New Canaan, Redding and Wilton.)
 - **Docket 08-06-12** Application of Cablevision of Connecticut for a Certificate of Video Franchise Authority. HL noted that the status of the ANCC under a CVFA was in question, since the statute calls for a state-wide council for CVFAs. JY reported that CV's attorneys interpret the law to mean that the 3 councils serving Cablevision's three franchise areas no longer exist. That being said, she noted that CV finds its relationship with the ANCC valuable and would like to keep things status quo for now. She also

commented that CV would try to give ANCC as much notice as possible should they change their position on this matter.

- DS commented that he had received the same opinion from the Office of Consumer Counsel on the ANCC's status. He stated, however, that he has received a promise from a local legislator to introduce legislation aimed at amending the current law to re-instate local cable councils. There was some question as to whether there should be one state-wide council for all providers or one council for each provider.

- HL asked for a sense of the group: Should we try to get re-instated under the law or keep the status quo? The council was in favor of trying to amend the law. Motion: The ANCC should establish a committee to request the legislature to amend the current legislation regarding the CVFA to include provision for local Councils as well as the state-wide council. There was discussion noting that we are particularly interested in pre-existing providers who opted for the CVFA rather than the CCFA, which would have kept the local council intact. Motion approved unanimously.

Alliance for Community Media. The ANCC will be renewing its membership in the. Treasurer HG will issue check for dues renewal.

4. Discussion of migration of PEG channels to the digital service tier. CV has extended its deadline for free converter boxes for analog customers to 12/31/08 and will notify customers of this extension in the next billing. JY estimates that CV has provided more than 1500 converter boxes to subscribers, but, despite the objections of the ANCC, CV will provide only 1 free set to each household. Additional boxes will be charged at \$6.75 per month. Although CT's Attorney General has requested that the DPUC open a contested case, the DPUC has not responded. HL reminded the group that installing Qam tuners are an additional option for subscribers. JC recommended that the group re-issue its press release again with a new date. JY reminded the group that CV will also supply 1 free converter box for each transmit site—1 per school and 1 per municipality.

HL noted Stamford's request (per MP) that the free converter boxes available to schools receive several channels, previously used for educational purpose, but moved to the digital service package. HL wrote a letter of support for Stamford's request on behalf of the Area Nine Cable Council.

HL has received complaints that schools received their "free" converter boxes, but then were mistakenly charged for them. PC noted that Greenwich had also been charged. JY noted that this was a billing error by CV and will see that it's corrected.

5. 2008 Grants and Use of Leftover 2008 Funding

Greenwich, Norwalk, Easton, New Canaan, Darien, and Redding submitted grant requests and described the rationale for the submission to the group. Each was approved with the request to submit vouchers for payment ASAP because of the need to provide an End of the Year Report to DPUC.

After this round of grant requests, the ANCC has \$ 6600 leftover 2008 funds. The group proposed to make available 6 grants@ \$1100 each to ANCC members. Deadline for making the request is Tuesday, November 25, 2008, e-mailed to John Repicky. Because of the need for fast turn-around of these funds, grant requests may be submitted even though the expenditure reports for previous grants are still pending.

DD has provided contact information for Alan Rosenfeld at B & H. DD calls him "knowledgeable (broadcast & cable production background) and very responsive".

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6. CV Rate Adjustments

JY described new rate increases and other adjustments by CV. Several services are increasing by \$3/month. Basic will remain the same; one-time charges will decrease. JY mentioned that CV may offer a "customer retention discount". HL will provide an analysis for the ANCC. (See e-mail 10/31/08 from Hal Levy.)

7. Future meetings: 10/29 (Easton); 12/17 moved to 12/3 (Greenwich). 2/11(Wilton); 4/1 (Darien); 6/3 (Annual Mtg - TBA).

8. Other Business

Darien (JC) questioned whether G-channels were violating CT State Elections Enforcement Commission laws by using town equipment to videotape town government board meetings when that board is advocating for a particular position on a referendum. He will seek an opinion from the SEEC and will share it with the ANCC. (See e-mail from JC dated 10/30/2008 referencing a Plainville case.)

Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
ANCC