

# A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council c/o Wilton Town Hall , 238 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897 [www.westportct.net/ancc](http://www.westportct.net/ancc)

TO: ANCC MEMBERS October 21, 2010  
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary  
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (October 20, 2010)

## ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever  
Easton: Andy Anderson  
Greenwich: Paul Curtis, Stu Reider, Chris Von Keyserling  
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak, Roger Williams  
Norwalk: Herbert Grant  
Stamford: Geza Ziegler  
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin  
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman  
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Lisa Bogan  
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Bob Moran (Redding), Jim Cameron (Darien)

Hal Levy called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed members.

### 1. The minutes of September 15, 2010 were approved as submitted.

### 2. ANCC Involvement for Verizon FiOS CVFA in Greenwich

Discussion among members favored the suggestion that the Town of Greenwich create its own council to work with the video providers serving their community, rather than establishing an ANCC subcommittee to focus on Greenwich.

**3. The financial report provided by the Treasurer was distributed and approved.** HG reported a balance of \$83,829.65 in the Escrow Account, which matches the bank statement. The balance in the Operations Account is \$11,030.80.

### 4. Old business-Use of Access funds for videographers and production services.

Discussion about past directive of DPUC—in past franchise agreements-- that Access funds be used only for equipment and equipment support (repair/maintenance). ANCC questioned Cablevision whether support of videographers' and production services was a valid use of Access funds. The ANCC cited past precedents for such use in Area 2 (SoundView Media's use of Access funds for personnel and Cablevision's own use of Access funds to support costs of Area 9 Public Access studio, personnel, and equipment.) JY reported that Cablevision would not object to such use of Access funds at this time. Several members agreed that availability of funding for Government Access personnel would help their community expand programming in their town. Members discussed the importance of accountability, separate reporting, and application requirements for such use.

### 5. How to Establish an Advisory Board and Why

DD presented an overview of Darien's G-Channel Advisory Committee with the history, role, and activities of Darien's committee. To date, only 4 communities have advisory boards for G-Channel operation. DD and JC (Darien) have a written outline available to help towns get

started in establishing an advisory group and are willing to assist any towns in developing a committee.

## **6. Cablevision/Fox Carriage Dispute**

All channels owned by News Corp are currently part of an on-going negotiation process between Cablevision and Fox for determining the cost of carrying these channels by Cablevision. While several channels are blacked out during the dispute, CT customers may still view much of the programming and two of these channels through the Connecticut affiliates on Channels 24 & 25. HL noted that the ANCC has written to Cablevision protesting the automatic re-setting of customers' set-top boxes to Channel 1999 in order to broadcast an alert message about the dispute. Members discussed the way in which customers might re-program their sets to avoid this message. JY reported that, while talks are continuing, customers may see more of these disputes in the future.

## **7. Grant Program**

Six grant applications were approved for Access equipment and related accessories. See website for grant applications.

- Greenwich--\$995
- Weston--\$1000
- Westport--2050
- Easton--\$1499.69
- Darien--\$2287.24
- New Canaan--\$1500

## **8. 2010 Supplemental Grant Formulation**

The ANCC has approximately \$30,000 in unencumbered 2010 funds—arising from the lack of applications for grant funding from several towns.

DD proposed that \$9000 be earmarked for a grant of \$1000 for each of the 9 towns that currently operate and produce programming on a Government Access channel. The purpose of this grant program is to support local production services (camera operators/videographers/video editors) in order to expand G-Channel programming in each community. Towns must apply by 11/29/2010—using the usual ANCC grant application process-- and expend the funds over 6 months. Towns must report expenditures to the ANCC. Unspent monies must be returned.

The ANCC also established a second grant program whereby towns may apply for a grant of not more than \$2000 for G-Channel equipment by 11/29/2010.

To be eligible to apply for either program, towns must be current and up-to-date with past expenditure reports.

## **9. Other matters--Application Process**

HL reminded group that the ANCC grant application form now includes a request for reporting the number of hours of programming that appears on the G-channel in each town.

**10. 2011 Meeting Schedule:** 12/1—Darien Library, 2/16, 4/6, 6/1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary, ANCC

October 21, 2010