

A.9.C.C.

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

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **October 26, 2017**
FROM: Hal Levy for Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2017 MEETING AT ALTICE NORWALK

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson
Greenwich: Susan Morris
New Canaan: Roman Cebulski, Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford:
Weston: Harvey Bellin
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow
Wilton:
Altice: Jennifer Young
Ed Committee:
Guests: Mike Wheeler, Roland Poirier

Excused: Marc Marin (Darien); Doug Dempsey (Easton); Stu Reider, Paul Curtis (Greenwich); Don Saltzman (Weston); Judi Freedman (Westport); Gary Battaglia, Fran Kompar (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm with seven towns represented.

Guest speaker Mike Wheeler and Weston guest Roland Poirier were introduced.

1. **Minutes** of September 13, 2017 meeting were approved as written
2. **Financial Report** from the Treasurer was distributed, discussed and approved.
3. **Updates on old business:**
 - **2016 I-Net reports** requested by 2/1/17 have not received from the following: Edu: Easton/Redding, Weston. These have missed the deadline for filing with PURA. Can still submit in order to qualify for grants.
 - **Member appointments:** Appointment letters for the current term ending 6/30/2019 were sent out to Town CEO's & Schools Superintendents on 6/15. No appointments received for E-> Greenwich, Easton/Redding, Norwalk, Stamford; G-> Easton, Greenwich, Norwalk, Stamford. On 10/24 Hal emailed all CEO's & Superintendents who have not responded. Please contact your CEO's & Superintendents regarding your desire to serve. Incumbent members must be reappointed by the end of the year to remain in good standing.
4. **Guest speaker:** Mike Wheeler is Chairman of the Darien TV79 Advisory Board. For the last year, he was a Fellow at the Reynolds Journalism Institute working on a project called *OpenTheRoom.org*, where they researched next generation products that can reduce the cost and complexity of broadcasting and archiving town meetings and local sports events. Mike demonstrated three products, which have only emerged since last June. (a) The *Panacast 2 AST* provides a 180 degree tracking camera and a beamforming array microphone that tracks the voice speaking. (b) The *Meeting Owl* is a 360° intelligent video conferencing camera so remote team members can see and hear meetings better. (c) The *Pixellot* unit for Sportscasts is equipped with four high definition cameras, which cover the length of the playing surface, and then focus in on the ball and player movement to deliver the action. Details on the project and these and other products can be found at <http://opentheroom.org/>

5. **To elect a treasurer to finish the current term ending 6/30/18:** No nominations made.
6. **2017 Round 2 Access Grant Applications:** The following applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Notes/Status
New Canaan E	\$1,825.50	*Approved
Darien E	\$1,059.98	*Approved with 1 abstention. Jim C expressed disappointment that there has been no new programming in 2 years from the elementary & middle schools. Asked Roman to f/u.
Wilton E	\$1,197.00	*Approved
CSH E	\$1,916.65	Tabled because no one available to present application. Can reconsider at 12/13 meeting.

*Presented by Roman Cebulski

If an applicant cannot be at the meeting to present the application, he or she should make an effort to get someone familiar with it to present it and provide hard copies.

Round 2 Government grant applications of up to \$667 have a submission deadline of 12/11.

7. **Altice TV rate changes:** (a) All Broadcast Basic residential customers will pay a \$3.99 “Broadcast TV Surcharge”, not just new customers. (b) Basic tier goes from \$17.95 to \$19.99/mo. (c) “Sports Surcharge” paid by all subscribers of the Optimum Value or higher tiers will increase to \$6.97 per month from either \$5.97 or \$4.97. (d) ESPN Classic has been removed from the lineup.

There was discussion on the ESPN carriage settlement and bundling by programmers. Jennifer suggested that there was an “Optimum Economy” tier without sports channels available, however it is questionable whether it is available here.

8. **Other Matters**

Jennifer reported on the progress of the Altice rebuild to bring fiber to the home. Construction is underway in Greenwich and Norwalk. There is a 5-year plan for eventually resulting in 10 gigabit data throughput.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25

Future meetings: 12/13/2017, 2/7/2018, 4/4/2018, 5/30/2018 - all at 6PM at Altice Norwalk