

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **October 26, 2023**
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2023 MEETING VIA ZOOM

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: ~~Jim Cameron~~, David Dever, Mike Wheeler, Tim McGuire
Easton: Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Craig Jones, ~~Horst Tobbe, Don Conway, Barbara Heins~~ Sean Mayo
New Canaan: ~~Paul Sedlak~~, Bob Doran, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk: Irene Dixon, ~~Mark Minnock, John Freda~~
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: ~~Eric Morson, Ryan Fealey~~
Weston: ~~Don Saltzman~~
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow, Natalie Carrignan
Wilton: ~~Gary Battaglia~~, Jeffrey Boehme, Fran Kompar
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino
Altice: Esme Lombard
Ed Committee:
Guests: Eileen Zhang (Westport)
Excused: Jim Cameron (Darien); Mark Minnock (Norwalk); Ryan Fealey, Eric Morson (Stamford); Stan Witkow (Westport)

Hal called the meeting to order at 5:03pm with eight towns represented.

1. **Minutes** of the September 20 meeting was approved as amended.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
 - **Status of appointments for current term:** Appointment letters have not been received for the following incumbents: New Canaan G (Paul Sedlak); Stamford G (Eric Morson); Weston G (Don Saltzman); Wilton G (Gary Battaglia). Please follow up with your appointing authority or let Hal know if you do not intend to serve on A9CC going forward. Incumbent members who have not been reappointed by the December 13 meeting will be removed from the roles.
 - **DOCKET NO. 22-06-26 PURA Study of the Operations of Certified Third-Party Nonprofit Community Access Programming Providers.** A9CC written comments were submitted 6/6/23. The draft decision on the docket is scheduled for 11/1/23. A9CC may submit Written Comments on the Draft Report if needed, based on positions taken by A9CC, Written comments are due 11/29/23,.
4. **2023 Round 2 grant program:**

\$15,600 to Edu, \$27,800 to Gov; 7 grants of \$3,971 on the Government side available to Darien, Easton, New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Westport and Wilton; Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee; A maximum of \$2,000 for each grant can be allocated to operations; The deadline for submitting grants from the towns & schools is 12/4/2023.

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Westport G	\$3,499.00	\$2,000.00	Approved
Easton G	\$1,971.00	0	Approved

Delinquent Grant Reports:

None

5. **SB 278 (2022) An Act Concerning A Study Of Community Access Programming Operations revenue:** This legislation is tied to PURA DOCKET NO. 22-06-26 (see agenda item 3), to address the payment of PEG fees from sources other than Cable TV subscribers. A report is due from the legislature by 12/31.
6. **Election debates on access channels:** Doug reported an ongoing problem in Easton regarding the carriage of election candidate forums and debates on the Town Channel due to contention between the DTC & RTC. Several A9CC members reported that their towns carry League of Women Voters sponsored candidate events and have had no problems.
7. **Access Channel Programming Problems and Solutions:** In a follow-up to the September meeting discussion on using AI applications for meetings televised on the access channels, Zoom has since rolled out its AI Companion service. However Mike Wheeler pointed out that it is cost-prohibitive for Access channel operations, but expects that this may become free in the future.
8. **Other Matters:**
 - Esme announced that an Optimum Store has opened in Westport, which offers the same service available at the Norwalk Store on Cross Street.
 - Mike D'Agostino reported on the success of the 2023 Educational Access Awareness Awards (EAAA) and thanked Altice for funding the program. We will plan on viewing a collection from the Repicky Awards winners at a future meeting. We look forward to the continued partnership with Altice in the future.

Future Meetings: 12/13/2023, 1/31/2024, 3/20/2024, 5/29/2024 (All at 5PM on Zoom)

Meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.