



TO: ANCC MEMBERS **November 30, 2006**
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (November 29, 2006)

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Leighton Jordan, Richard Seclow
Greenwich: Stu Reider
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk:
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman, Bob Atkinson
Westport: Hal Levy, David Dreyfuss
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, John Repicky
Cablevision:
Public: Doug Dempsey, Dolly Curtis

The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Easton Town Hall with 9 towns represented.

With the agreement of the council, HL suggested re-ordering the agenda in hopes that a representative from Cablevision might still arrive to address specific agenda items later in the meeting.

1. Minutes of October 18, 2006--The ANCC approved the minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2006 with the following corrections: the spelling of Marge Costa's name, proper capitalization of PEG, and location/date of the February ANCC meeting to be 2/7/07 in Greenwich.

2. Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

3. Grant Program (including Supplemental Equipment Update) — HL noted that delivery, or arrangements for delivery, of supplemental equipment to Area Nine towns has been nearly completed. New Canaan has been in contact with Cablevision about part of its equipment request. Any additional follow-up questions should be directed to Myles Rich at Cablevision.

The council reviewed and approved seven grant requests from Area Nine towns: Greenwich, New Canaan, Darien, Wilton, Westport, Redding, and Norwalk. HL advised grantees to submit their vouchers for payment within 30 days and reminded representatives that Dec 31 is the deadline for any 2006 submissions.

4. Personnel Changes at the Cablevision Government Affairs Department — Noting that no representative was present from Cablevision and noting the recent resignation of

Deb Hutton, VP, Government Affairs, several council members expressed disappointment that Cablevision has, apparently, not yet filled several positions that, in the past, have been crucial to positive communications between the council and the company. Specifically, both the VP and the Manager of Government Affairs for the Connecticut office have worked closely with the council in clarifying questions about rates in Connecticut, company policies, construction delays, and technical assistance. Their presence in Connecticut and availability to the council are critical for a productive on-going relationship.

Both HL and DS noted the increase in general communication problems and agreed, at the request of the council, to contact Cablevision to express the council's concerns. HL reminded the council that the most recent "reply brief" filed in the 05-04-10 Docket had also expressed the Council's concern over the apparent contraction of the personnel assigned specifically to the CT market area. DS observed that the Government Affairs Department in Norwalk, formerly comprising four employees, had shrunk to one staff member.

Council representatives reported delays in construction and technical assistance for several schools' E-channels--New Canaan, Weston, and Easton—and questioned whether the Area Manager, Local Programming, CT, Myles Rich, will continue to be available through the Norwalk office or whether his assignments are spreading him too thin around the NY/NJ/CT market areas. Several members questioned the way that priorities of the construction/fiber group located in New York were determined, since CT E-channel requests seem to be low priority. DD suggested that towns send HL a list of specific problems that are pending with Cablevision so that HL might communicate it to the company.

DS questioned how future ANCC budgeting plans would be made between the council and the company and with whom these discussions would occur.

JC asked whether other market areas, such as Westchester or New Jersey, were experiencing similar delays and communication problems or whether these problems were unique to the CT market area.

5. Recent Announcement of Rate Increases—In light of the recent announcement of rate increases, HL has requested from Cablevision the weighted average for the Norwalk system and a copy of the rate card as soon as it becomes available so he can make an analysis of the implications of increases for Area Nine customers. JC suggested that the ANCC, as advocates for the public, post a FAQ section on the ANCC Website alerting customers to the increase and explaining the limited role—per federal law—of the state and the council in the process.

6. Discussion of Docket # 05-04-10: Cablevision 2007 Franchise Renewal

Hal Levy reviewed the re-revised timetable: draft decision due on 11/30/06. The Area 2 decision awarded an 11-year franchise to Cablevision and awarded third-party provider status to Sound View Media for PEG access there. Members were reminded to check the DPUC Website for any updates. <http://www.state.ct.us/DPUC/>

HL reminded the group that anyone can sign up to receive all DPUC documents via e-mail through the DPUC Website and will alert ANCC members to any upcoming decision.

7. Peg Access Issues— Dolly Curtis raised questions about why the audio problems on Channel Public Access 77 weren't being addressed and whether this was an equipment problem or a show-specific problem and whether it was unique just to Easton viewers.

A question was raised about members of the public requesting their shows be aired on G or E channels. HL advised ANCC members to refer these requests to John Sherwood at the CV Public Access office in Norwalk.

DS reminded the group that, under the new franchise agreement, there may be no requirement for CV to offer additional transmission sites, so if there are more schools that require wiring, ANCC members should urge their schools to get their requests submitted ASAP.

CYK asked about ownership of supplemental equipment in light of a recent dropped camera at an event in Wilton. JR confirmed that this, as well as equipment that is acquired through the regular grant program, becomes the property of the Community Access. The funds used to acquire the equipment come from subscriber fees that, by law, support PEG operations.

8. Other—Several members asked about local advisory committees to provide support and guidance to the local E/G channels. Easton has an advisory committee; Wilton and Darien are developing plans for one. HL suggested that the council help local E/G channels update, develop, and adopt guidelines and policies for E/G operations.

DD questioned the role of the council, if Sound View were to be named the community access provider in Area Nine. HL and DS noted that, although the council would still be mandated under the franchise agreement, its role would be largely determined by the members. JR urged the towns to get as much local programming on their channels as possible to serve the needs of each local community.

Next Meeting—1/3/07—Wilton High School.

Future meeting schedule-- 2/17 (Greenwich); 3/21 in Darien; 4/25 in Norwalk.

Annual Meeting—TBA.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.