

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, 6 Lazy Brook Ln, Westport, CT 06880

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **December 18, 2018**
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2018 MEETING AT ALTICE NORWALK

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron
Easton:
Greenwich: Horst Tebbe, Craig Jones, Barbara Heins
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk:
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Bob Lion
Weston: Harvey Bellin
Westport:
Wilton: Jeffrey Boehme
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino
Altice: Laura Jordan
Ed Committee: David Pisani
Guests: Cecil Wade (Darien TV79), Roland Poirier (Weston)

Excused: Dave Dever (Darien); Doug Dempsey (Easton); Stu Reider (Greenwich); Irene Dixon (Norwalk); Don Saltzman (Weston); Hal Levy, Judi Freedman, Stan Witkow, Natalie Carrigan (Westport); Fran Kompar (Wilton)

Vice Chairman Jim Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm with seven towns represented. Andy George has resigned as Stamford Education rep.

1. **Minutes** of October 24 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. **Financial Report** was distributed, discussed and approved. It was noted on the escrow account that there are pending payment vouchers from CSH and Darien E due before 12/24/18. Harvey Bellin suggested if there is money left in the access escrow account at end of the year it could be divided evenly between E & G as operational grants (no action taken).
3. **Old Business:**
 - Cameron reminded towns they still owe data for A9CC access channel spreadsheet: Darien E, Easton G, Greenwich E, New Canaan E, Norwalk E, Weston E, Region 9 E.
 - Mike D'Agostino (Region 9) says Altice has made good progress in fixing their INet drop. It's about 90% done.
 - Altice's Laura Jordan says she has had no complaints of slow response times by Customer Service. If A9CC members hear of such complaints she asked they forward details to her.
 - Reports of pixelization of Channel 8 feed confirmed by Laura who says feed was defective but she's heard no complaints of such problems on channel 3. If subscribers have complaints she said they should call Customer Service
4. **2018 Round 2 Access Grant Applications:** The following applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
CSH E	\$6,124.96	0	Approved
Greenwich G	\$2,870.00	0	Approved - TV monitor sought is 55" not 65"

This concludes the 2018 grant program. The supplemental \$25,000 cash payment from Altice was received on 12/3/2018 and all prior pending payment vouchers were paid out.

5. FCC DOCKET 05-311 which could limit cable operator support of PEG access

Jim presented concerns about this proposed rule making from Alliance for Community Media. While PEG funds would still be collected from cable subscribers, franchisees could deduct such expenses as transmission to head-end, build-out in schools and even the commercial value of the PEG channel if it was it used for something else. Jim read portions of a letter opposing the rule from two New England congressmen and said that Darien TV79 had filed comments on the FCC website against the plan. Jim promised to distribute suggested letter and how-to instructions for FCC comments to all members noting deadline for comments was December 14, 2018.

Discussion followed about also asking for letters from mayors / first selectmen and cc'ing Congressman Himes and Senators Murphy & Blumenthal.

Laura Jordan said Altice has no position on this proposal but she would keep us informed if they announced one.

6. Other Matters

- Laura had no news from Altice. She noted cable subscribers still declining, but not as bad as predicted. Discussion among members of how to retain subscribers by calling CSR and threatening to disconnect. Cameron reminded members that every cord-cutter was less money for PEG grants.
- Before the next meeting on 2/6/2019, Hal will be sending out an email requesting I-NET logs for 2018; Filing the A9CC Annual Report with PURA and sending invoices to Altice for 2019 Annual Stipend for A9CC Operations and 2019 E&G Access funding.

Future meetings: 2/6/2019, 4/3/2019 - all 6PM at Altice & 5/29/2019 at location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 6:55