

A.9.C.C.

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **December 16, 2021**
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2021 MEETING VIA ZOOM

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron, David Dever, Joan McGettigan
Easton: Doug Dempsey, ~~Andy Anderson~~
Greenwich: ~~Craig Jones, Barbara Hoins~~, Horst Tebbe, ~~Don Conway, Michael Reid~~
New Canaan: ~~Paul Sedlak~~, Bob Doran, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk: Irene Dixon, ~~Mark Minnock, Andy Garfunkel, Trevor Kline~~
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Bob Lion, ~~Eric Morson~~, Alec logman
Weston: ~~Don Saltzman, Gabe Tully~~
Westport: Hal Levy, ~~Stan Witkow, Natalie Carrignan~~
Wilton: Gary Battaglia, Jeffrey Boehme, Fran Kompar
Region 9: Mike D’Agostino
Altice: Esme Lombard
Ed Committee: Julie Casper Roth (NCC)
Guests:

Excused: Andy Anderson (Easton); Stanley Witkow, Natalie Carrignan (Westport); Mark Minnock, Andy Garfunkel (Norwalk); Eric Morson (Stamford); Paul Sedlak (New Canaan)

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

1. **Minutes** of the October 27 meeting was approved.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
 - A9CC appointments through 6/1/23: No appointments from E->Weston. Incumbent members who have not been reappointed will be removed as voting members on 12/31/2021.
 - A9CC PO Box should appear on future customer bill inserts

4. **2021 Round 2 grant program:**

\$15,000 for Educ. grants, \$35,000 for Govt. grants. 10 grants of \$3,500 on the Government side. The breakdown of the Educational portion was determined by the Ed Committee. A maximum of \$1,500 for each grant can be allocated to operations. The deadline for submitting grants from the towns & schools was 12/8/2021.

The following applications were reviewed:

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Darien G	\$1,951.12	0	Approved
Redding G	\$2,000.00	0	Approved
New Canaan G	\$3,500.00	\$1,500.00	Approved
NCC E	\$10,210.36	0	*Approved
Wilton E	\$4,789.64	0	Approved

*NCC needs to reestablish its I-Net connection to the Optimum headend in order to deliver its programming to Ch78. Esme will arrange an Altice contact and Bob Moran offered to visit NCC to help.

Delinquent Grant Reports

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
Weston G	\$4,000.00	12/21/2020	2/19/2021	Don will f/u with Jonathan
Weston G	\$2,500.00	12/29/2020	6/27/2021	"
New Canaan E	\$10,220.50	10/1/2021	11/30/2021	Roman will submit shortly
Wilton G	\$2,500.00	5/14/2021	11/10/2021	John S. will be contacted

5. **2021 Round 3 access grants**

	Edu	Govt
Round 2 Allocation	\$15,000.00	\$35,000.00
Round 2 Granted	\$15,000.00	\$17,350.62
Funds returned	\$0.00	\$0.00
Available for Round 3	\$0	\$17,649.38
Normalized Available	\$0	\$17,600.00

There is approximately a \$28.5K balance in the grants account after disbursement of the approved grants in item 4. Education has spent all its available grant funds. Government is \$17+K under. The Council created eight \$2,200 Government op grants to be made available to eligible towns on a 1st come 1st served basis. Applications along with vouchers must be submitted by 12/27.

6. **Encryption of Broadcast Basic channels on Optimum TV**

Starting January 10 or 18 2022, Optimum will start digitally encrypting (scrambling) the Broadcast Basic channels (ABC, NBC, FOX & CBS). Currently, these channels can be viewed with a direct cable connection to a TV containing a QAM tuner. When encrypted, a customer will need a cable STB, CableCARD or DTA (Digital Tuning Adapter) on each TV to view these channels. The company has stated that it will provide one Cable box or DTA free of charge to customers for 1 year. After which, it is presumed that these devices will be charged for. Esme will find out what the charge for a DTA is. In 2009, the then Cablevision petitioned the FCC for a waiver allowing for digital encryption of Basic channels in NYC. A9CC filed a letter to the FCC expressing concern that granting this waiver would adversely affect customers (and eventually Connecticut customers), to have to pay more for renting required equipment to receive the channels. The waiver was subsequently granted. These concerns remain for this latest action. Some Council members also expressed skepticism of the operational impact to subscribers when this technical change is implemented.

7. **Other Matters**

- 2021 I-net reports are due 2/1/22. Hal will send an email requesting submission of 2021 I-net reports to Altice and A9CC.
- The 2021 A9CC Annual Report will be filed with PURA by 1/31/22
- Invoices will be sent to Altice in early January for \$2,000 in council funding, \$100,000 in access funding, \$25,000 in supplemental access funding and 2/3 pass through of U-verse access funding.
- Altice has announced some channel changes: NBC Sports & Fusion has ceased operations. WMBC will move from CH 86 to 20. NY1 will be added to the lineup. Some HBO, Showtime and Starz HD channels will be delivered using Switched Digital Video.

Future meetings: 2/2/22, 3/23/22, 5/25/22. All 5:00pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm