

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Hal Levy
RE: MINUTES OF September 16, 2026 MEETING VIA ZOOM

September 17, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron, Mike Wheeler, Carrie Wysocki, Tim McGuire
Easton: Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Craig Jones, Horst Tebbe, ~~Don Conway, Ken Borsuk~~, Sean Mayo
New Canaan: ~~Bob Doran~~, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk: ~~Jenn McMurrer, Mark Minnock, John Freda~~
Redding: ~~Bob Moran~~
Stamford: Eric Morson, ~~Ryan Fealey~~
Weston:
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow, Natalie Carrignan
Wilton: Maria Breece
Region 9: Mike D'Agostino
Optimum: Brian Smith
Ed Committee: Vincent Agazzi-Morrone (CSH)
Guests: Alberto Varga (Westport); Josue Jorge (Norwalk)
Excused: Jenn McMurrer, Mark Minnock (Norwalk)

Hal called the Meeting to order at 5:04pm with eight towns represented.

Announcements:

1. **Minutes** of the May 27 meeting was approved with 1 typo correction.
2. **Financial Report** was approved.
3. **Old Business:**
 - I-Net Logs or program logs due 2/1 – New Canaan G - No new grants until logs are submitted

4. Nutmeg TV petition to takeover Community Access Operations in Area 9

[Docket 25-09-07](#) Nutmeg TV would replace Optimum as CAP in A9 replacing our town-specific PEG model with a centralized model. A9CC received Intervenor status on 1/9 and filed comments and a brief opposing Nutmeg's petition. On 8/31 PURA handed down its draft decision aka PFD denying Nutmeg and preserving our status quo on TS channels and funding model. Nutmeg filed 80 pages of written exceptions and requested oral arguments which are pending. The final decision date is also pending, but should not change this outcome. Several members expressed appreciation for those who worked diligently to achieve this outcome including Brian Smith of Optimum, who we look forward to our continued relationship delivering PEG in our Area. Brian forewarned that the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between Nutmeg & Comcast for Comcast Plainville & Comcast Vernon, if approved could bring Nutmeg back for a second bite of the apple in our area.

Current Docket Time Schedule is:

External Events	Status	Date	Time
Notice of Proceeding Issued	CONFIRMED	01/07/2026	11:00:00 AM
Request for Participant Status Due	CONFIRMED	01/21/2026	04:00:00 PM
Scheduling Conference (New)	CONFIRMED	03/30/2026	10:00:00 AM
Prefiled Testimony Due	CONFIRMED	05/18/2026	04:00:00 PM
Rebuttal Testimony Due	CONFIRMED	05/25/2026	04:00:00 PM
End of Rolling Discovery	CONFIRMED	06/01/2026	04:00:00 PM
Hearing - Day 1	CONFIRMED	06/8/2026	10:00:00 AM
Hearing - Day 2	CONFIRMED	06/10/2026	09:00:00 AM
Late Filed Exhibits Due	CONFIRMED	06/23/2026	04:00:00 PM
LFE Hearing - If needed	CONFIRMED	06/29/2026	10:00:00 AM
Briefs Due	CONFIRMED	07/16/2026	04:00:00 PM
Proposed Final Decision Issued	CONFIRMED	08/31/2026	04:00:00 PM
Written Exceptions Due	CONFIRMED	09/10/2026	04:00:00 PM
Oral Arguments, if requested	RESCHED	09/14/2026	10:00:00 AM
Regular Meeting/Final Decision	TENT.	09/23/2026	10:00:00 AM

5. 2026 Round 1 grant program

\$65,000 each to E & G; 8 grants of \$8,125 on the Government side; Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee; A maximum of \$3,500 for each grant could be allocated to operations; The deadline for submitting grants from the towns is May 22; The deadline for submitting grants from the schools is September 11; Unused Round 1 funds retained separately in E&G funds for Round 2 grants; Eligibility requirements as outlined in the Grant Procedures <http://a9cc.org/GrantProcedures.pdf> shall apply to these grants

Town/School	Amount	Ops	Notes/Status
Westport E	\$3,251.60	0	Approved
R9 E	\$9,754.00	0	Approved
CSH E	\$9,268.65	0	¹ Approved with Conditions

¹The CSH application was approved pending a written plan from the Education committee outlining the process for putting CSH programming onto the educational channels in Greenwich and other towns in Area 9.

Delinquent Grant Reports

Town/School	Amount	Date Paid	Date Due	Notes/Status
New Canaan G	\$3,000.00	9/24/2024	3/22/2025	Refund requested
New Canaan G	\$2,500.00	12/16/2024	6/14/2025	"
New Canaan G	\$7,099.00	8/1/2025	9/30/2025	"
Wilton E	\$6,285.00	6/17/2026	8/16/2026	
Easton G	\$1,360.00	12/18/2025	6/16/2026	
Easton G	\$4,625.00	6/17/2026	8/16/2026	
Greenwich E	\$9,284.00	6/17/2026	8/16/2026	Backordered equipment

This concludes Round 1 2026 grants

6. 2026 Round 2 grant program

	Edu	Govt
Round 1 unused funds	\$14,707	\$32,500
Added funds	\$0	\$0
Available for Round 2	\$14,707	\$32,500

\$14,707 to Edu, \$32,500 to Gov; Breakdown of the Educational portion to be determined by the Ed Committee; 7 grants of \$4,643 on the Government side; A maximum of \$2,500 for each grant can be allocated to operations; The hard deadline for submitting grants from the towns & schools is 12/4/2026.

7. Access Channel Programming Problems and Solutions

Jim led a discussion on how you run what, when, why and how you promote your schedule. He spoke of some of the tools being used on Darien Channel 79, such as streaming services for on-demand program viewing and AI for searching out specific topics in the programs. He invited A9CC members to also share what their channels are doing to facilitate viewing

8. Optimum equipment price increases

Optimum announced that Effective beginning September 3, 2026, new prices for new customers or existing customers requesting a change to their video service or package as follows:

Video Service Tiers	New Monthly Rate Non-Promotional Pricing
Business Basic Video	\$63.00
Business Choice Video	\$105.00
Business Value Video	\$175.00
Business Preferred Video	\$185.00

Video Equipment	New Monthly Rate Non-Promotional Pricing
Optimum Stream*	\$15.00
Set Top Box	\$15.00

** Not available in all areas*

9. Other Matters: None

Future Meetings: 10/21/2026. 12/9/2026, 1/27/2027, 3/17/2027, 5/26/2027 (All at 5PM on Zoom)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.