

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council, c/o Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT 06897

www.westportct.net/ancc

TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: JOHN REPICKY
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (March 23, 2005 – Redding)

Mar. 24, 2005

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Jim Cameron
Easton: Leighton Jordan, Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Jen Larkin
New Canaan:
Norwalk:
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler,
Weston: Don Saltzman, Bob Atkinson
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton: John Repicky, Carole Kleinfeld, David Sherwood
Cablevision: Chris Klimek

1) Meeting began at 6:01 pm with 5 towns represented. Voted: to approve the minutes of Feb. 16, 2005. Approved minutes will be posted on the ANCC website. HL announced that Anne Haydon will replace Rad Stone as the New Canaan rep and Bob Lasprogato (Westport) has resigned. HL thanked Rad and Bob for their service.

2) Treasurer's Report -

Activity	Date	ANCC Account	Access Escrow
Opening Balance	1/31/05	\$11,370.57	\$66,488.36
Interest & Dep.		.96	
Checks & Debits		84.46	\$10,790.00
Closing Balance	1/31/05	\$11,287.07	\$55,698.36

JR reviewed the treasurer's accounts. He noted that the escrow account balance of \$55,698.36 does not reflect the encumbrance for eight grants that have already been approved. Deducting these eight, plus the funds for the Access Awards program, the fund balance would be \$21,259.81. JR also reported that CV has not yet paid the \$2000 stipend for 2005. HL had questioned CV regarding the bill and suggested that another be sent. The Treasurer's report was approved.

3) Access Grant Requests:

Easton, Greenwich & Weston submitted grant requests.

- Easton requested \$2500 to purchase a quality Mini-DV camcorder. The request was approved pending receipt of documentation on its previous grants by the next meeting.

- Weston submitted a request for \$5000 (double grant) to upgrade library & town hall studios. DS noted that Weston would forego future grant requests to offset the spending for the previous installations. HL remarked that a double request from Weston brings the total number of requests to six, while the ANCC had only created five grants. DS motion: Increase the current grant pool from 5 to 6 grants. JR commented that there were sufficient funds to create an additional grant, especially since Wilton and Greenwich did not request the full \$2500 allotted. Motion passed. Unan. The Weston grant request was then approved. (Unan.)

- JL presented a Greenwich request (\$2380) for improved studio equipment (tripods & intercom). Approved. Unan

4) To discuss 2005 Access Support Budget:

HL & DS met with Tad earlier this evening. HL reported that we could expect a similar contribution of \$100,000 for 2005 with the possibility of some additional funding. The DPUC has increased the access funding requirement by 3.6% from the previous level of \$5.70. Although the state statute 95-150 does not apply to CV, the department placed the same requirement in CV's franchise. HL and DS argued that providing cash contributions through the ANCC made it easier for CV to account for its adherence to the DPUC's regulations.

5) Review status of CT-N coverage:

After our discussion at the last meeting, the ANCC drafted a letter to the committee. HL received two responses: Sen. Bob Duff thanked the Council for its comments and Tad responded with a note that CV had hoped that coverage on the access channel was sufficient but CV will look into other avenues. JC noted that several of the bills have progressed. NECTA indicated that they would try to work with the legislative leadership on this issue, but no developments have been announced. DS pointed out that there is conjecture that CTN seems to be trying to have even more presence on cable with the possibility of multiple channels in the future. It would be easier to find space on the digital service than to open an analog channel. It would seem almost impossible to take over multiple analog channels. CV's franchise application could be impacted by the CTN issue. CK stated that CV will wait to see what the legislature will do.

6) Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting is scheduled for Wed., June 1.

Motion: That Geza Z. chair a committee to prepare for the annual meeting. (Giovanni's was suggested as a desirable location.) The motion was approved.

Suggestions were made for a guest speaker: Jack Goldberg; Bob Button; a legislator, Sen Duff?; Please e-mail suggestions to HL.

7) Consider Amendments to By-Laws: We will vote on changes to the By-Laws at the annual meeting. Some suggestions have already been proposed. If you have more, please get them to HL by the next meeting so that they can be properly noticed to members before the annual meeting. DS wanted to put a term limit on the secretary's position so that other members could step into the position. GZ suggested putting in the positions of assistant Treasurer and assistant Secretary to provide a smooth transition for new officers to become familiar with the job.

8) Dark I-Net Channels:

HL received only one explanation for dark channels (Weston). Weston Fire Dept does not use its transmitter, so DS plans to remove it and use it at the new elementary school. Norwalk submitted an e-mail about their FD and plans to use the channel in the future.

DS asked what we do now about removing transmitters from dark channels. JR suggested that we do nothing until we run into more requests for transmission sites as there is now some movement on the school front (most notably Easton & Redding and a number of schools undergoing renovation). Chris noted that there are still 5 frequencies available. HL would like to discuss "phase II" of this program at the next meeting.

9) Discuss CV 2010 Franchise Renewal:

CV must submit a letter of intent by May 1. The actual application is due later.

The DPUC will order CV to create a needs assessment. The Dept will hold public hearings. DS would like to have the ANCC hold hearings.

10) Peg Access issues:

Carole K. presented a letter from a Wilton resident complaining about the quality of the public access channel (77). HL noted that it is a public access channel and the quality of the channel is basically the responsibility of the public. Chris K. indicated that this complaint has spurred CV to pay a little more attention to the channel and especially the bulletin board that it maintains. CV will be running PSAs to get more people involved in the access channel.

11) Other Matters: None

Next Meeting: April 27 @ Greenwich

Adjourned: 7:28 pm