

August30

## Lake Champlain Access Television

Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 30, 2009

Milton Town Offices

**Present:** Diane Bahrenberg (DB), Sam Conant (SC), Neil Hilt (NH), Dick Pecor (DP), Peter Russom (PR), Ron Stotyn (RS), Kary Towne (KT) and Channel Director Kevin Christopher (KC)

### Call to order

DP called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

### Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

### Public / Board Member / Staff Comment

There were no comments at this time.

### Approve Minutes of 6/15/09

PR made the motion, DB second, to approve the minutes of 6/15/09. Motion passed.

### Old Business

Fairfax/Westford/Georgia: KC briefly discussed the letter from the Georgia Select Board requesting program sharing between the St. Albans PEG and LCATV. We will wait and see if this has an impact on program sharing. There is a meeting in Westford next week where Comcast will make a pitch to the public letting them know what services Comcast can provide. KC will attend on behalf of LCATV giving them information on how we can serve this population should we become their service provider. The meeting is 9/10 at 7 pm at Westford School. Regarding the Islands: KC learned that Comcast is planning a closed system for the Islands—allowing the possibility of a new PEG entity to form.

Web Platform: KC received an update today-- all updating to media player is complete so they are hoping to get it up and running soon.

2011 Contract: Two segment group meetings: have taken place-- spiritual and library groups. Next up is municipal group at the end of September and legislative group also sometime in September. Attendance is low but getting good feedback. PR had positive feedback from the group he attended. Overall he felt it went well—the setting was comfortable and there was much dialogue and feedback. The Education sector will meet in October.

Digital Media Grant: DP and KC met with Christina from Comcast and was told that Comcast and the Dept of Public Service had a lot of questions about DMG. There were questions around the ownership of capital equipment, specifically the library retaining ownership of equipment (and the associated liability, maintenance and connection with town budgets) which might be interpreted by some as a breach of our contract. KC discussed possible solutions with the board which might include consideration of a renewable loan of the equipment. SC made the motion, RS second, that KC speak to each library DMG group about possible changes to the agreement and address this concern. Motion passed.

KC reported that Georgia has been very active in producing programs.

Milton has submitted their year 2 budget and there were some questions about the limited production seen and the equipment requests (handycam and laptop). Since there is money left in the first year's budget, KC and DP will follow up with the Milton library group before approving the budget.

New Facility Exploration : PR and KC met with North Country and TD BankNorth. The meeting with North Country was brief. TD BankNorth's meeting was lengthy and they requested more information which KC has sent in. KC is waiting to hear back from them before moving forward. Mike Simoneau continues to contact LCATV to see where we are in this process. PR got assessed value of the Milton building--\$244,280. We have no comparables from Mike Simoneau. The next step is to get some comparables to review. KC and PR will follow up. PR will look at the assessed value (land separate structure) which is available at the Assessor's Office in town. KC will check back with the bank to see how that is going.

VAN Restructure of Dues: The new restructuring means around \$970 for LCATV (1/3 of 1%). There was discussion from Board members who expressed concern about lack of input from the PEG channels about this restructuring. SC made the motion, PR second, that we pay the designated amount but request an explanation for the process they used as it related to lack of communication with PEG channels. Motion passed.

Proposed Name Change: RS reviewed how this idea came about. A couple of ideas for new names included Lake Champlain Access Media or Lake Champlain Community Media. Would we have to change our logo? DP wondered if we would have to work on the legislative front to recognize the fact of different avenues of creating and distributing media, especially considering not all households have access to cable. After brief discussion, it was decided that this is an issue that can be considered in the future. We need to focus on the issues at hand, specifically contract negotiations. SC made the motion, RS second, to table this issue for one year. Motion passed.

Revised Budget: KC presented a revised draft of the budget dated 8/17/09 showing changes in the capital budget as a result of our previous discussion with Maureen Garafano. RS made a motion to adopt the revised budget, NH second. Motion passed.

Broadcast Pix system: KC reported about the June demo. Cost is \$20766 with \$5000 installation and \$800 for cables, bringing total cost to \$26000+. This would replace some current equipment and is user friendly. The equipment that it is replacing could be used in the mobile lab or donated to other stations. Since this is not a pressing issue, action was taken for our next budget year. RS made the motion, SC second, to approve the purchase of this equipment in the 2010 budget. Motion passed.

### **Policy Review**

KC suggested that we scheduled a special meeting dedicated to policy review. SC made the motion, RS second, to table policy review at this time and have KC schedule a meeting in September or October dedicated to policy review. Motion passed.

### **Treasurers Report:**

KC presented the June '09 balance sheet. Total current assets were \$382,675.12 with total assets \$453,049.29. He indicated that LCATV has received a funding check from Comcast for ~\$82,000 since this report.

KC also had received information from Opportunities Credit Union that they would like to send a member to our meeting to see what else they might be able to do for our organization. No action taken on this request.

### **Future agenda items:**

- Staff restructuring based on needs and ideas for the station, especially in terms of outreach
- Reassignments/ anticipated needs / ? new personnel (1/2 outreach, ½ production?)
- Third channel
- Contracts coming up in September, October and November

**Adjournment**

At 7:15 DP made the motion, SC second, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kary Towne  
Secretary

Next Meeting: KC will contact us via meeting wizard for meeting for policy review and regularly scheduled meeting