



LAKE CHAMPLAIN ACCESS TELEVISION

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Regular Board of Directors Meeting

March 30th 2016

LCATV Studio/Offices

Creek Farm Plaza, Colchester, VT 05446

Board of Directors in Attendance: Ken Rocheleau (KR), Dick Pecor (DP), Bob Sekerak (BS), Bob Shea (BSh), Neil Hilt (NH), Carol Jones (CJ) and Curt Taylor (CT).

Staff in Attendance: Kevin Christopher (KC)

- 1. Call to Order: 5:32 PM**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
- 3. Public / Board Member / Staff Comment**

None

- 4. Approval of 1/20/2016 Minutes**

Motion to approve by BS, 2nd by CT, passed unanimously

- 5. Executive Director's Report**

KC reported that the Town Meeting season was successful: 21 forums scheduled, 9 were covered. Partnering with local papers was successful. The new gallery exhibit will be here until the end of April when an exhibit promoting Lynne Disease Awareness will be installed. The HD upgrade is continuing and work will be performed May 4th and 5th installing new cameras and controls. The studio will then be in HD, though the signal going out over Comcast will still be SD. This gives the studio the capability to produce HD. Getting HD to the consumer is planned for the future and depends on infrastructure improvements.

The Vermont Access Network's (VAN) annual meeting will be held on the 6th of May VCAM/RETN in Burlington. KC encouraged all directors to attend.

Discussion turn to the relationship between VAN and Comcast. KC explained that the primary issues of contention are: the Interactive Programming Guide (IPG), an alternative to traditional remote origination and making HD accessible to users.

Extending cable coverage throughout the state was also discussed. This will be a subject of a workshop at the VAN annual meeting.

KC also mentioned the Van Video Challenge. There are three teams from LCATV competing with 5-minute films. The productions will be available on VMX.

6. Treasurer's Report

CJ reported that all is in balance. She mentioned that Income is well over budget (\$44,000). KC explained that reason may be due to the fact that LCATV budgets for the calendar year but income is not accurately reflected until after the 1st quarter. Next month these figures should be consistent. CJ questioned why compensation expenses are \$8k below budget and KC explained that he budgets for compensation to reflect increases after contract renewal. That increased amount is spread out over the year's budget. CJ also pointed out that the amount for Business Insurance is zero. KC explained that LCATV has a new bookkeeper and this may be due to the way the items are grouped and will be corrected.

7. Old Business

a. Community Affairs Program discussion

DP reported that though this has not yet been launched he is renewing efforts to get it going. The goal is to design a format that will be used to cover various topics. Lake Champlain Water Quality may be such a topic, the format being a moderated discussion with field produced segments enhancing the discussion. The difficulties of locating a good moderator were discussed.

The budget and funding of the program has not yet been discussed.

b. LCATV Sponsorship discussion

KC reported that he has not progressed a lot on this issue but that summer will bring many opportunities. LCATV will be a sponsor of the Colchester Triathlon at Bayside park the last Sunday in July. The sponsorship will be in-kind pre and post event public service announcements. LCATV may provide live coverage of the finish depending on WiFi availability.

KC asked that if Board Directors know of events in the various communities that might be sponsored, to let him know.

8. New Business

a. Personnel Committee discussion

KC reported that the Personnel Committee work was delayed by Town Meetings. He will get back to the Board on progress.

9. Other (added as needed)

a. The LCATV Van

BSh asked about the status of the LCATV van. KC reported that the van will not be sold. It will be re-wrapped. He sees this as an opportunity for re-branding LCATV with a new logo that might then be put on the van. KC will talk to SSTA and the Town of Colchester to see if either might provide a more secure place to park the vehicle.

b. Debate Showcase – Forensic Competition

DP described the various speech competitions in the school systems. He has been serving as a judge for the debate competition. There was considerable discussion about how LCATV might showcase such a competition. DP will contract Bob Hall, Guidance Director at Colchester High School, with the idea of a segment on this and report back to the Board.

c. Kary Towne’s Thank you and Studio Dedication

CJ asked how the dedication for Kary’s retirement went and what was done as a thank you gift. KC stated that she has been given a \$100 gift certificate to various restaurants and was presented with a plaque. A plaque has also been hung at the LCATV studio.

10. Executive Session – not needed

11. Adjournment: 7:06 PM

Motion to adjourn by CJ, 2nd by KH, passed unanimously