



CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT  
MEETING MINUTES

**January 8, 2009, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**  
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,  
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Shawn Greeley, Jerry Tobias, Bill Hakkinen, Steve Garmon, Roger Roy, Jim Loughlin, Art Barton ABSENT: Marie Crompton, Shane Devine  
COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne, Frank Facchini,  
THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen

**I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments – SECTV's Dan Weaver**

**II. Reports**

**A. Secretary's Report:** Tobias requested that the minutes from the November 13, 2008 meeting be corrected under the section of Survey of Councilors. Tobias noted that he did not ask if food would be provided at the meeting rather he questioned the time of future meetings which would affect whether food would be provided or not. Greeley moved the minute be accepted as corrected, Garmon seconded the motion - approved unanimously.

**B. Treasurer's Report:**

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during December 2008-January 2009.

<i>Previous reported balance</i>	\$31,110.45
CREDITS	
Combined interest earned 11/26/08 & 12/23/08:	\$5.11
TOTAL	\$31,115.56
EXPENSES	
Val Koschmieder – steno services November Meeting	\$100.00
<i>Current checking account balance</i>	\$31,015.56

**C. Comcast Progress Report -** Codeanne handed out a list of marketing items including new Internet speeds and channel changes, Troop Greetings and On Demand.

Tobias raised his objection to removing of analog channels and raising consumer's rates. Codeanne explained that the cost of business has caused the increase. Hakkinen asked if and when programming on channel 206 will be replaced. Codeanne explained that there is no information on this yet. Hakkinen also asked if Dan Glenville will be attending our March or May meeting to give the council an update on Comcast's conversion to an all digital service. Codeanne will verify if he can make the meeting. Kelley stated he will pencil him in for the May meeting.

Facchini passed out a list of 16 Community Access programs that were recently produced. He also reported that he held an Open House on December 2<sup>nd</sup> that eight new visitors and fifteen regular access producers attended. He also handed out a new studio brochure which will be available at public locations. The brochure advertises the public access studio and explains how to produce a television show. Facchini also explained that Comcast does control content of public access programs. However, if anyone notices any questionable content they should notify him immediately. Facchini also reported that Stonington School District is interested in doing a new show.

Kelly asked if Comcast could advertise their Senior Discount program during these tough economic times. Greeley asked if the Senior Discount program could be noted on customers' bills as they were several years ago. Codeanne said she will look into it. Facchini and

Greeley offered to place a message about the Senior Discount program on the public and government channels if Codeanne could come up with the wording.

Codeanne further explained that Comcast will soon be launching faster internet service called Docsis 3.0.

- D. **TVC Progress Report** - Andersen reported the TVC's monthly statistics, the Holiday Literacy Campaign and that retransmission consent negotiations with a few channels are ongoing. He also reported the launch of On Demand service. He reviewed additional channels, the movement of some other channels, and explained that due to popular demand, the Game Show Network will not be moving off of Expanded Basic. However, WTNH's weather radar will move to channel 152. He also reviewed TVC's recent rate increase.

Garmon asked if ESPN U would be available on the expanded basic tier. Anderson explained that the channel is already offered on the digital basic tier but not on the analog service. Garmon asked that duplicate broadcast stations and shopping channels be looked at to possibly make room for ESPN U on expanded basic analog service.

Tobias asked when will unbundled channels be offered to consumers. Anderson explained that smaller cable operators like the idea of unbundling but larger companies do not. It will take legislative intervention to change how channels are offered to consumers..

### III. Old Business

#### A. Status of the third party public access provider.

Facchini will be meeting soon with the cable companies to discuss the third party public access provider issue. Facchini introduced SECTV Advisory Board Member Dan Weaver. Weaver is Foxwoods' Director of Communications and is a public access producer. In the past, Weaver has produced national talk shows in California. Facchini noted that he is hoping to open a DPUC docket for the third party public access provider in the near future.

#### B. Review of Council goals:

- 1) Advocate cost containment
- 2) Work closely with TVC in the development of new franchise and the third party PEG cable access provider
- 3) Continue to advocate for the needs of franchise members
- 4) To continually review the cable channel lineup and advocate for customer requests
- 5) Raise the public awareness of the advisory council, inform the community of the advisory council's role and solicit public opinions and needs.

### IV. New Business

- A. **Anne Ingraham Recognition:** Kelley has found contact information for Anne and will talk to her soon. Kelley will ask her what type of recognition she would like. He will email her phone number and mailing address to the board.
- B. **Reconstituting the Council:** Discussed at last meeting, no new actions have been taken.
- C. **Revisit letter to be written to political representatives:** Due to recent legislative staff changes, Kelly is delaying contacting representatives until March. Reductions in analog cable services while increasing prices and digital transmission are the major concerns to be addressed in this letter.
- D. **Statewide Advisory Council Meeting January 30:** Tobias & Kelley will attend the January 30, statewide meeting. AT&T's Uverse service and Uverse PEG service will be discussed at the meeting.

Garmon asked about the status on the VRAD boxes. Kelly stated that AT&T needs to contact property owners who will be adjacent to VRAD locations before installing the

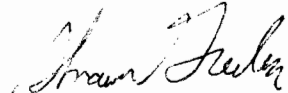
box. If they do not receive permission they can't install the box. AT&T usually will not offer service to that area if it can't install the box in a spot they want. It will probably be over a year before AT&T starts building the system East of the Thames River. Kelley noted that AT&T's HD picture quality is good and they are working on improving PEG channel quality.

**V. Survey of councilors**

Tobias – Asked Kelly about the status of advertising council vacancies in local newspapers. Kelly said he is running behind on this effort but will work with Barton to come up with an ad. He will update the council at the March meeting.

**VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shawn Greeley".

**Shawn Greeley**