



CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT  
MEETING MINUTES

**September 10, 2009, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**  
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,  
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jerry Tobias, Bill Hakkinen, Steve Garmon, Roger Roy, Jim Loughlin, Art Barton, Shane Devine, Shawn Greeley  
Comcast Representatives: Sharon Codeanne, Frank Facchini,  
Thames Valley Communications Representatives: Carl Andersen

**I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments – Ledyard Town Councilor, Mary McGrattan**

**II. Reports**

A. Secretary's Report: June 24, 2009 Special Meeting Minutes – Greeley moved to accept the minutes, Tobias seconded the motion – motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity of the Council's checking account during July & August 2009.

<i>Beginning balance (6/23/09)</i>	\$35,474.52
CREDITS	
Combined interest earned 7/23/09 & 8/25/09:	\$6.08
TOTAL	\$35,480.60
EXPENSES	
Val Koschmieder – steno services June Meeting	\$100.00
Jim Kelley - Expenses	\$251.95
Jerry Tobias – Refreshments for meetings	\$27.08
Cindy Vierra - Website updates	\$25.00
<i>Current checking account balance</i>	\$35,076.57

C. Comcast Progress Report - Sharon Codeanne handed out a list of marketing/community relations items including channel changes and information on the NFL Red Zone. Public Access Coordinator, Frank Facchini passed out a list of 18 public access programs produced at the public access studio during the past three months

Kelley inquired about special pricing for non-profit organizations. Codeanne does not believe this is available right now. However, public libraries, schools and some municipal buildings, do receive free basic service.

Roy asked if it was necessary to have a cable box for basic tier service. Codeanne said no.

Tobias reported that on the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday WGBH was replaced with CPTV. He called Comcast and was given incorrect information regarding the sudden change and was not pleased with the Comcast representative that handled the call. On August 13<sup>th</sup> he called Comcast's customer service and commended the service representative that he spoke with (Barbara) and felt she should be commended. Codeanne will look into the 7/4 issue and will pass on the positive feedback from 8/13. Tobias also brought up an issue with his cable receiver failing to update its program guide everyday at 3 a.m. Codeanne will look into it.

- D. TVC Progress Report - Carl Andersen reported on monthly statistics, sponsorship of several area events and an update on NBC Universal and Olympic coverage.

Loughlin asked about digital breakup that he has recently noticed. Anderson explained it may be caused by a seasonal phenomenon called sun spots, and that it should clear up soon. Loughlin would like to see a picture comparison between TVC and Comcast reception to find out if Comcast is experiencing the same problem. He will look into finding a place that has both services to be able to make the comparison. Loughlin also brought up the need to advertise the council's goals and contact information. Kelley noted the contact information is on the customer's bill and that the council has advertised in the past on channel 2 & 19. Barton also reported that the Council looked into newspaper advertising and found it very costly for a "one shot" ad in the middle of the week. Also, Kelley and Greeley were interviewed by The Day newspaper about a month ago but it was not published.

### III. Old Business

- A. Status of the third party public access provider - Facchini reported that SECTV would not be making a presentation tonight because of the DPUC docket delay.
- 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. Status of Stonington PEG channel - Kelley, Greeley and Stonington BOE representatives will meet to discuss aspects of operating an education access channel. All Council members are invited to attend.
- B. Using funds for PEG projects. - Hakkinen would like the Council to consider funding grants for towns such as Ledyard so they can get education and government access production going in their town. Hakkinen took a survey of the counselors to hear their opinions on the idea. Every counselor was in favor, although Kelley brought up that the 3<sup>rd</sup> party PEG may be looking for money as well. Kelley also stated that Ledyard is not close to a specific request for items yet, he thinks the money should go towards production equipment and he'd like a specific process set up on how these grants would be made. Garmon also suggested towns should look at possible federal grant money or stimulus funds. Codeanne was aware of some of grant money and will send a Hakkinen a link to the grant. Greeley would like to see the cable companies pay into their infrastructure and the grants to be used for video production equipment. Hakkinen asked if Comcast would be willing to writing off a portion of the Ledyard government access infrastructure build as a contribution. Codeanne will look into the possibility of any contributions. Anderson (TVC) suggested a web based solution for a much lower cost. Since there are still many details to be worked out before a Stonington and Ledyard channel could come online, no timetable has been set to implement a grant program.
- C. Survey of council - Nothing to report

- V. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

