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Bill Hakkinen, Secretary

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2005, Regular Meeting, 5:35 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117, Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Anne Ingraham, Marie Crompton, Jerry Tobias, Art Barton, Allen Palmer, Shawn Greeley, Tim Chokas, and Bill Hakkinen

ABSENT: Jim Griffith, Patricia Ostrout

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Kristen Roberts, Frank Faccini

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION: Russell Dipallina, Carl Andersen

I. Recognition of members of the public - Ms. Bett Schissler, Ledyard and Mr. Steve Smith, Groton both came observe the meeting

II. Reports

Chairman Kelley issued a change in the order of agenda items. The item concerning use of Council recording devices was taken as the first item. A motion, seconded by Ingraham to address the use of a tape recorder for the purpose of assisting the note taker for accurate minutes was discussed. The motion passed.

A. Minutes – from January 13th meeting were accepted.

B. Treasurer's Report – As of January & February 2005 the Advisory Council's checking account balance is \$20,320.04.

Expenses \$67.21 – Jim Kelley, Postage & Office Supplies

79.62 – Jim Griffith, Refreshments for Jan. 05 meeting

37.74 – Bill Hakkinen, Mailing Minutes for Sept. '04, Nov. '04, and Jan. '05.

Income \$2,000.00 – Comcast Honorarium,

2,500.00 – Thames Valley Honorarium

3.02 – Interest for January – February

C. Comcast Report – Kristen Roberts reports that the HBO free preview on channel 63 ended February 28, 2005. Other preview channels will be offered on Channel 63; as of now Encore is being presented. Channel changes have been made. ABC News Now was a temporary show and has been taken off channel 194. Comcast added Hi Definition on demand on digital. There will be a bill conversion taking place as of April 1, 2005. The conversion will be one bill type for the entire state. How to read the new bill will be included in the next mailing. They will now be offering one bill for Internet, video & telephone services. Comcast is sending \$500.00 to the Cable Advisory Board. Community access files were sent February 15; some of the information was not current so they are being revised. There are 2 independent parties interested in taking over the Community Access.

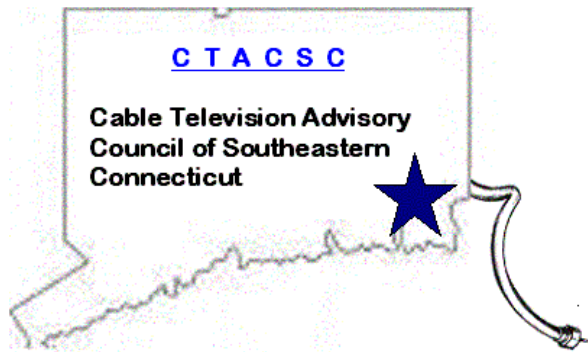
Tobias commented that the TV Guide still says HBO for Channel 63; the web site information hasn't changed either.

D. Thames Valley Communication Report – Construction going to Year II build plan to start when winter ends.

TVC is sending out brochures for channels and is offering a premium package for foreign channels. There has been a delay in the launch of National Geographic on a digital tier; they hope to have service within a month. They are in the process of notifying the DPUC of this delay. TVC is extending their plan to a number of large multiple dwelling unit (MDU) complexes in the city. This is a cumbersome process. TVC currently has wiring agreements with the majority of MDU's. 60% of the housing units in the city of Groton are MDUs.

III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider – Chairman Kelley opined that a Special meeting would be a good course to follow. Suggestions were made to put together an adhoc committee to choose between the two interested parties or have a special meeting for presentations from the interested parties. Barton suggested to do both have an adhoc committee review



and then meet with the council and also to have representatives from Comcast and TVC for their technical knowledge. Greeley suggested that a special meeting would be all that is needed.

Kelley recommended a special meeting in one month to meet with the interested parties. Tobias stated two weeks from tonight's meeting would be better. A tentative special meeting was planned for Thursday, March 31st. Much discussion was held on whether Comcast would set up narrow casting on a distinctive channel for each town. The question was put to Roberts of Comcast to obtain this information before the special meeting. Roberts was also asked how long before Comcast would unload cable access? She stated Comcast would like to accomplish this before 2006. A vote was held to formally request that information be provided from Comcast before the special meeting on March 31st on the feasibility of what percentage of coverage will be provided to each of the towns of educational services. The vote passed unanimously.

B Report on Web page progress – A presentation of the Home Page for the CTACSC, which Jim Griffith has set up, was shown.

It was suggested that any additional Home Page ideas be forwarded to Griffith. The URL for the Home Page is <http://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/catv/index.htm>

C. Review of Channel Lineup – Chairman Kelley stated he had spoke to channel 12, LIN Broadcasting, and Nielsen Media on how the designated market areas are set up. He will follow-up with Channel 12, Lin Technical, and Nielsen Media representatives to try to get channel 12 available in our area.

IV. New Business

A. A 30 second Public Service Announcement made by Shawn Greeley and Bill Hakkinen promoting the CTACSC was shown to the council. The Council applauded the PSA as a superb product by Councilors Greeley and Hakkinen. Chairman Kelley asked Roberts when Comcast would be able to air the PSA and she said there is a three to four month waiting period. Greeley stated that the PSA could be shown on channels 2 and 12.

B. Councilor responsibilities versus their rights as private consumers – An issue raised by Jerry Tobias in connection with his dealings with Comcast and the three month discount given to him after he called to complain about a price increase. Much discussion took place on this matter; the general consensus was that Tobias acted as a private citizen without intent to be unethical.

C. Question on answering questions concerning TVC installation schedule. – Answer suggested by TVC representative, was to give consumers the TVC telephone number (446-4009) and their questions will be answered. Also mentioned was that the quarterly progress report can be seen on their website, although progress and projection reports are considered confidential and are not viewable.

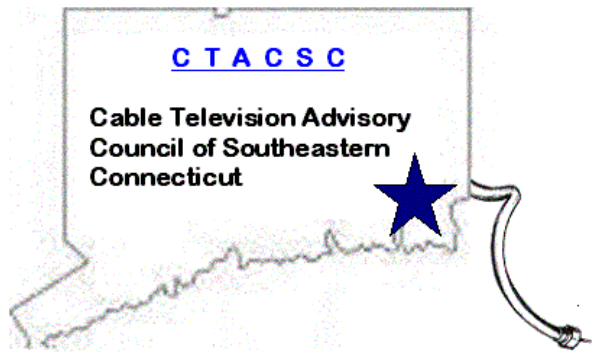
D. Should the Council adopt a budget? - Ingraham, on the basis of expenditures for the period of January 2004 – January 2005, proposed a budget of \$2,000.00. A vote was taken to adopt an annual budget of \$2,000.00. The budget will be broken down by classification for our next meeting. The motion passed.

E. Comcast withdrew its draft motion to open a Docket for selection of a third party public access provider.

F. Council surveyed regarding comments, observations etc. - Tim Chokas – none, Allen Palmer – had a subscriber call to complain about CTN and other channels cutting out on the digital package. Bill Hakkinen – Wondered if anything could be gained from meeting with other cable advisory councils and also asked if there was a statewide council.

G. A motion was made by Tobias to reconsider the earlier decision to allow the tape recording of meetings. Barton seconded. A vote was taken with 8 in favor of reconsidering the earlier decision, 1 abstention. After discussion it was voted not to allow tape recording of the meetings.

VI. Adjournment – Barton moved to adjourn the meeting, Greeley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Hakkinen