

P.O. Box 323
Groton, CT 06340-0323

Email;
CTACSC@northstonington.k12.ct.us

Bill Hakkinen, Secretary

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2006, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117, Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Patricia Ostrout, Jim Griffith, Art Barton, Shawn Greeley, Marie Crompton, Clint Kennedy, Jerry Tobias, Allen Palmer, Anne Ingraham, and Bill Hakkinen,

ABSENT: Jeanne Robbins

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: John Bairos, Kristen Roberts

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION: Carl Andersen

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: Frank Facchini

Stenographer: Moreene Nahornick.

I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments - Eleanor de Aguirre, 1085 Long Cove Road, Gales Ferry. Cable provider, Comcast. Ms de Aguirre had a complaint about English-type drama programming in the regular channel lineup that has been dropped and is now available for an additional fee of \$15.00 per month. Would like to see that programming returned to the previous lineup without the additional fee.

II. Reports

A. The minutes of the March 9, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report:

Previous balance as of March 9, 2006 \$23,467.88

CREDITS

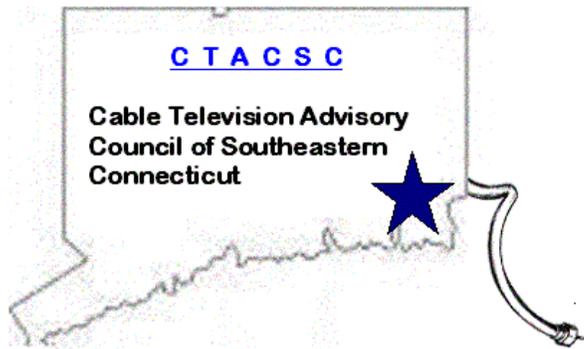
Payment due from Comcast		\$ 500.00
Interest-March, 2006	\$1.74	
April, 2006	2.15	3.89
TOTAL		\$ 23,971.77

EXPENSES

Jim Kelley –Mailing and Office supplies		43.99
Bill Hakkinen –Refreshments, March meeting		87.40
Moreene Nahornick – Steno services, March meeting		75.00
Bill Hakkinen – Mailing minutes of March meeting		<u>27.79</u>
TOTAL		\$234.18

Current Checking Account Balance \$23,737.59

- C. Comcast Report – After meeting with Comcast representatives Kelley reported four CTACSC goals regarding Comcast service:
1. Narrow casting is and will remain top priority. Comcast suggested taking the existing education and government channels and splitting time between towns. Question was raised who decides timetable for viewing. It was stated when digital takes place this problem will be solved. To solve the problem it was suggested to give every subscriber a digital box. Comcast said this solution was too expensive. Greeley asked why Comcast can't install digital over the 5 year TVC build.
 2. Reinstate second CBS channel. Reported negotiations are being held by Comcast to add a second CBS channel back (Channel 12 from Providence) into the channel lineup.
 3. Have prices consistent within franchise. Comcast reported that any special subscription pricing is available to all franchise subscribers, even though it may be marketed only to a separate geographical or market segment.
 4. Level of rage over service. Comcast reports survey says customers quite happy with service.



Kelley will meet with Comcast again in approximately two weeks - main topics will be narrow casting and what can be done to improve service.

Tobias stated that Comcast still does not list Groton on TVGuide.com. Roberts reported that some zip codes will not access the TV Guide. She has sent this problem to marketing to be looked into.

Hakkinen commented on a bias in programming towards the New York Yankees. Would prefer equity with the Boston Red Sox. Roberts will send an e-mail to the Council on which baseball network they will carry in high-definition on channel 207.

Greeley reported that every customer may have a digital box by the year 2009, if the FCC so directs. The probable time frame of this will more likely be 2010 or 2015. Digital boxes are addressable, for example channel 999 could be dedicated to Groton programming for Groton subscribers, and at the same time channel 999 could also be dedicated to Stonington programming for Stonington subscribers, etc. Six to twelve digital channels fit into bandwidth space occupied by one analog channel.

Roberts gave a copy of the customer satisfaction survey summaries to Kelley.

In non-CTACSC business, Roberts reported that Comcast can sponsor a United Way video as requested by Hakkinen (a United Way volunteer), but can not produce it.

Bairos reported that Comcast will sponsor the Summer Waves Series. Comcast also offers \$1,000.00 scholarships to area high school students.

Roberts announced that due to her changing role at Comcast, she will no longer be attending Cable Advisory meetings.

D. TVC Report- April 15, 2006 TVC added Super station WGN on channel 23, EWTN was moved from channel 23 to channel 20. The local information channel is now located on channel 97, also TVC carried over-flow Bruins games that were broadcast at the same time as Red Sox game on channel 96. Andersen handed out the 1st quarter construction report. Reporting 46.8 strand miles, 41.85 coax miles and 5.94 fiber miles for the period. The report notes that TVC are being slowed by make ready delays but still plan to complete Town of Groton build by year-end. As of April 2006 TVC has added 6.43 overhead miles and 1.68 underground miles of plant. 83 service calls reported during the period were equally spread between company and customer problems. TVC had 349 installations during that period. During April 2006 the average answer time was 37 seconds and 97.6 % were answered within this time frame. 99% were answered in less than two minutes. TVC recently signed a contract to carry NESN in high definition on its own channel, to begin on July 1. Anderson passed out new channel line up and digital brochure.

III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider – Franck Faccini of Southeastern Connecticut Television reported application was withdrawn in January. Faccini stated that he does not have a timeline for pursuing third party status, will let Advisory Council know.

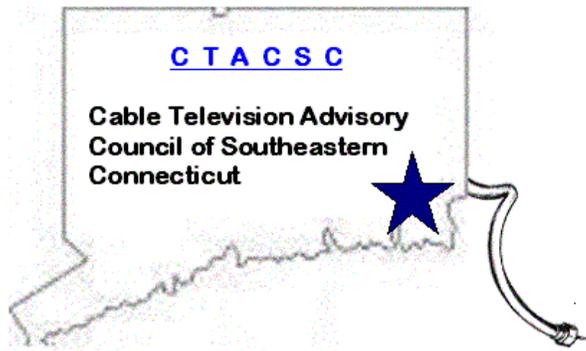
B. Report on Web page progress (CTACSC.org) – Griffith said the Web page looks good and meeting minutes have been posted. FAQ's haven't been added yet, due to lack of questions. Griffith was asked if there is a counter on Web site. He answered no, but would look into the price of installing a counter.

IV. New Business

A. Shall the Advisory Council meetings be recorded? – It was decided due to storage issues of recorded materials the Advisory Council meetings will not be recorded. The vote was 10 in favor of not recording meetings with Anne Ingraham abstaining.

B. Impact of AT&T new Internet protocol based TV service – DPUC issue is contested. AT&T intends to provide IP protocol cable service on a statewide basis. Judgment by DPUC to allow AT&T to build in densely populated areas, with out responsibility to build in less populated areas. AT&T would have no build out requirement, can cherry pick, doesn't have to do community service and does not pay gross receipt taxes. The DPUC's final decision is June 7, 2006. Kelley stated with the help of Greeley will write a letter to the DPUC regarding AT&T, PEG, gross receipts, cherry picking and access funds. Comcast position is concern with Net Neutrality language in federal bill. Doesn't believe necessary to preemptively regulate the Internet when no harmful behaviors have been identified.

C. Annual election of Officers - Nominees are: Chair – Jim Kelley, Vice Chair – Art Barton, Treasurer - Anne Ingraham, Secretary – Bill Hakkinen. Tobias moved to vote on election, Crompton seconded, nominees were voted in unanimously.



Ingraham requested a second Signatory to Council's checking account. Such signatory to be used in the event of Ingraham's absence or inability to function as Council's treasurer. Greeley moved that Vice Chair Barton have signatory authority Tobias seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D.Communications: Hakkinen proposed typing up the by-laws, since no electronic version exists, and reviewing them for needed modifications at the September meeting, with an eventual goal of voting on them by the CTACSC. Greeley is pleased that Comcast is considering the use of addressable digital technology options to resolve the community access narrowcasting problem. Crompton complimented TVC on their community access. Palmer had a question regarding removal of Comcast service line. Is there a charge? Comcast's answer, yes but will look into it. Kennedy was concerned about Net Neutrality. What was TVC position? TVC stated they are too small.

VI. Adjournment –The meeting adjourned at 6.50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Hakkinen