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Bill Hakkinen, Secretary

## CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2005, regular Meeting, 5:37 p.m.

Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117, Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jim Griffith, Patricia Ostrout, Jerry Tobias, Art Barton, Marie Crompton, Shawn Greeley, and Bill Hakkinen

ABSENT: Anne Ingraham, Allen Palmer, Tim Chokas,

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: John Bairos

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION: Russell Dipallina, Carl Andersen

SOUTHEASTEN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: Frank Facchini

I. Recognition of members of the public - No members of the public present.

### II. Reports

A. Shawn Greeley presented corrected minutes of the March 31, 2005 Special Meeting, as well as, corrections to the March 10, 2005 regular meeting minutes. Greeley motioned to accept the minutes as corrected; Hakkinen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report – \$1,000.00 was budgeted for expenses.

Expenses \$35.20 – Postage & Office Supplies

174.07 – Refreshments

150.00 – Steno Services

Income \$500.00 – Comcast Honorarium,

3.36 – Interest for March – April

C. Comcast Report – Marketing for April will be Sprout on Demand, children's programming on PBS. Later in the year Comcast will add Sprout as a channel, which will be children/family entertainment. Channel 63 is still the preview channel with programs such as

Military, Sundance, and Encore Mystery. Tobias commented that the preview programming is not listed on the TV guide channel, therefore you can't tell what is on.

Comcast is attempting to unify the channels throughout the state, which will take place later this summer.

Greeley requested that Comcast let the Advisory Council know about changes in advance so there are no surprises.

Griffith asked if Adelphia will become part of the Comcast franchise? The answer from Bairos was yes.

Tobias noted that the Cable Advisory Council address on the bill is still incorrect. Kelley asked if we could get a guarantee the address will be corrected? Hakkinen asked that, if the address could not be corrected, than Comcast explain why at the next CTACSC meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Bairos's response is he will see what can do.

Tobias suggested that Comcast add Turner Classic Movies to its channel lineup.

Bairos stated there is \$8,625.00 in available Community Access funding and the money has to be used towards community access programming.

D. Thames Valley Communication Report – 0 strand miles were installed this winter, time was spent planning.

TVC is 100% complete in the city, 50% in the town; they expect the town to be complete by 2006.

TVC hopes to add the Turner Classic Movies channel.

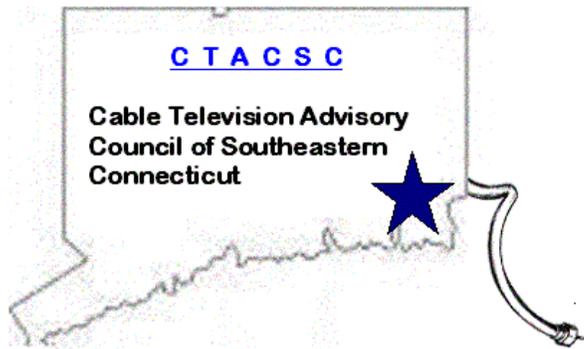
Notification of rate change for TVC internet service – will include increased speeds and a lowered cost.

TVC handed out business cards with contact phone numbers, to pass on to consumers.

### III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider – Frank Faccini reported he is meeting with attorneys. Within the next couple of weeks he will file an application to the DPUC. Hearings should be in the summer/fall and he hopes to be up and running by January, 2006.

Kelley requested Comcast put in writing their intentions for narrowing casting and he would like an answer in two weeks. Bairos said he would get back to Kelley in that time.



Greeley stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expires in Nov./Dec. and there should be an extension of the MOU between Comcast and TVC regarding community access.

**B Report on Web page progress –** The URL for the Council’s web site will be [www.ctacsc.org](http://www.ctacsc.org). The cost for domain name is \$99.00.

It was suggested the council use the services of Cindy Vierra to create the web site; the cost being \$400.00. A deposit of \$200. is required. The cost will include one year’s design & maintenance and the council will own content of the site. Hakkinen motioned to approve disbursement of \$499. in funds to establish the web site. Tobias seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A committee consisting of Griffiths, Hakkinen, and Greeley was formed to work on content for the web site. It was also stated the second year of the web site the cost will be for maintenance. Griffith showed a presentation on sites that Vierra has designed.

**C. Review of Council Goals –** Faccini suggested to separate SECTV from TVC in goals to work closely with each provider. A motion was made to add a sixth goal seconded by Tobias, the vote passed unanimously with 7 members voting. Greeley was out of the room at the time.

#### **IV. New Business**

**A. Issues related to minute taking –** suggestions were made to name the way each council member voted when there is a split vote. Also, more detail on issues will be included, as well as consensuses of the Council.

**B. Formalization of archiving Council records –** Hakkinen asked Greeley to be the official keeper of the all the reports and minutes for the Council. Greeley agreed.

**C. Kelley suggested the council consider sponsoring a state-wide meeting of Cable Advisory Boards. Kelley’s ideas on sponsoring a state-wide conference were as follows:**

- Have it at Foxwoods
- A one-day program with a keynote speaker
- Discuss issues important to the councils
- Expects 50 to 75 people
- Dinner afterwards ?

**Consensus –** Tobias stated at one time there were monthly state-wide meetings and they were very valuable, not sure convention type would work to discuss common issues. Crompton – good idea, having a speaker is great, suggested end the day with hors d’oeuvre and cocktails. Greeley – good idea, expand guests to Mr. Blumenthal, talk about billing, panel discussion. A committee was formed consisting of Kelley, Barton, Crompton, Hakkinen, Griffith, and Ostrout to create a structure for the event. The committee will work over the summer to build structure and present to the Council for discussion in the Fall.

**D. Election –** Kelley polled current officers, and all agreed to serve another term. Kelley also asked if any other members were interested in serving in one of the officer capacities – there were none. Tobias moved to keep current Council members in their positions, Greeley seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Tobias moved to elect the current Council officers to their positions, Greeley seconded. The vote was unanimous.

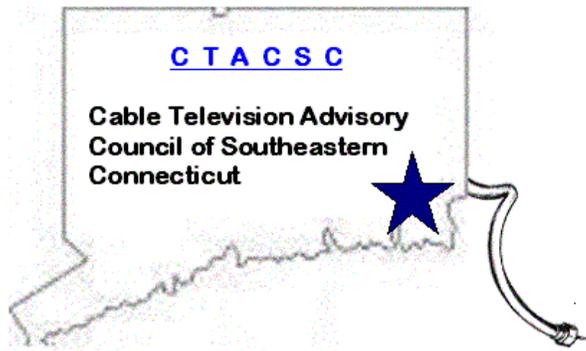
**F. Council surveyed regarding comments, observations etc. –** Kelley expressed problem in dealing with Comcast as a company.

Hakkinen stated exasperation with Comcast, re: poor communication and Council address errors on the Comcast bills.

Greeley stated there appears to be no cross-communication within Comcast, also he suggested that Comcast be pro-active in offering information on up-coming changes, such as the Sprout on Demand.

Bairos’s comment was that Comcast would try to improve.

**VI. Adjournment –** Barton moved to adjourn the meeting, Crompton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

**Bill Hakkinen**