

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

Email: CTACSC@northstonington.k12.ct.us

Web site: www.ctacsc.org

Bill Hakkinen, Secretary

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT – MEETING MINUTES

May 10 2007, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117, Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Art Barton, Jim Griffith, Shawn Greeley, Jerry Tobias, Anne Ingraham, Patricia Ostrout, Bill Hakkinen, Allen Palmer.

ABSENT: Marie Crompton, Clint Kennedy.

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne, Dan Glanville.

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: Frank Facchini and SECTV Board member Mr. Dan Weaver.

I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments - None.

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report:

Hakkinen moved, Palmer seconded a motion - the minutes of the March 8 2007, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during the months of March and April 2007.

Previous reported balance \$27,979.83

CREDITS

Interest payments for the two months:

March	1.91
April	<u>2.44</u>
	\$4.35

TOTAL \$ 27,984.18

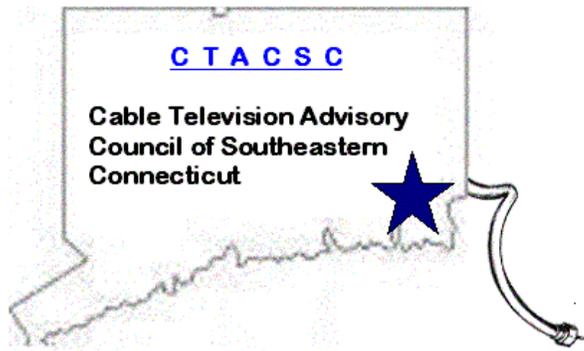
EXPENSES

Jim Griffith – Refreshments	101.89
Jim Kelley –Administrative expenses	15.60
Bill Hakkinen – Mailing minutes	<u>38.76</u>
TOTAL	\$156.25

Current Checking Account Balance \$27,827.93

C. Comcast Report – Sharon Codeanne handed out a list of Community Relations and Marketing items, and Customer Care e-mails, since the March 2007 meeting. Frank Faccini presented the Community Access report.

Dan Glanville discussed draft legislation pending before the Legislature which would denote AT&T's "on-demand" type of service being installed in CT as a "video services provider", as opposed to a cable television service. While it is too early to determine the eventual outcome, there is also discussion of designating municipal overbuilders (such as TVC) as video services providers. As such, TVC would only report to a regional cable advisory council twice a year, and would not report to our CTACSC at all.



- D. TVC Report – Carl Andersen reported that TVC has major make-ready issues affecting expansion. There is an open docket 07-02-13 that TVC is participating in to address this issue. Mr. Andersen reported that this delay is affecting the expansion of their entire franchise area, from Gales Ferry to Stonington. Additionally, Mr. Andersen noted that TVC had signed contracts to launch two new networks, NECN on limited basic and Golf/Versus HD on HD basic.

III. Old Business

Hakkinen moved, Greeley seconded a motion to accept the modified, typed bylaws as presented at the last meeting. Tobias asked if these were the same as the last version handed out at the last meeting – Hakkinen replied that the latest version has the leader “The latest edition of . . .” in front of “Robert’s Rules of Order”, and that the final version will be posted on the CTACSC web site. The motion passed unanimously.

Southeastern CT Television – Since both TVC and Comcast are happy with the current arrangement – TVC forwards annual user payments to Comcast, and Comcast provides the PEG facility, this issue is likely on hold until the Comcast franchise renewal is finalized.

Tobias raised the issue of Comcast recently raising rates for analog subscribers, then removing channels, resulting in a double cost increase for analog subscribers. Codeanne replied that programming is not under the jurisdiction of any regulatory body. Glanville discussed other packages which subscribers have access to. Greeley suggested that this is an old issue which may be a moot point, in that with an all-digital future, the CTACSC might focus on what digital packages and pricing are being, or will be, offered.

IV. New Business

Glanville presented three options to the issue of narrow-casting:

- a) When we reach the all-digital world, in 18 months or so, addressing all customers’ set-top boxes to deliver local PEG programming will be easy.
- b) Plant segmentation – the current system was not built town-by-town, rather form areas of higher to lower population density, so re-engineering the system to provide local PEG programming to all subscribers requires rework, estimated to cost \$700,000 in the “plant”, and \$400,000 at the “head-end”.
- c) The most viable suggestion, which is in alignment with the current MOU with TVC, is to share the existing PEG channels, and invest about \$100,000 in equipment.

The CTACSC suggested a fourth option – Since Comcast will be changing over to all digital systems over the next two years, they could provide each town with a digital education and government access channel (which would require no switching or special equipment). The plan could be spread out over the time period of TVC’s build out. As Towns come online, their digital channel would be added to system (helping to spread out the cost and labor on Comcast’s part) . In this way each Comcast subscriber would receive all PEG channels from each franchise town.

With the advent of all-digital, and a simple resolution to this issue, the CTACSC decided to follow that course. Glanville agreed to report back to the CTACSC at the January 2008 meeting.

Elections – Tobias moved, Ingraham seconded a slate of Jim Kelley, Chair; Art Barton, Vice-Chair; Jim Griffith, Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. There was no willing candidate for Secretary; Kelley will find a viable solution to this before the September meeting. He will look to fill the note-taking task on a paid basis.

V. Other Communications -

None.

I. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Hakkinen