

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

November 10, 2005, Regular Meeting, 5:31 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117, Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jeanne Robbins, Patricia Ostrout, Jerry Tobias, Art Barton, Shawn Greeley, Anne Ingraham, Allen Palmer, and Bill Hakkinen; Stenographer Moreene Nahornick

ABSENT: Marie Crompton, Clint Kennedy

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: John Bairos

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION: Carl Andersen

SOUTHEASTEN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: Frank Facchini

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

II. Reports

A. The minutes of the September 8, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously (Hakkinen motion, Barton second).

B. Treasurer's Report

Communications – No expenses, Balance is \$512.00

Council Meeting Expenses -

Expenses	\$13.60– Postage
	0 – Refreshments
	0 – Steno Services

Income Interest for September \$1.85 and October \$1.63 a total of \$3.48

Balance - \$555.50

Checking Account Balance - \$19,727.01

C. Comcast Report - Now have a partnership with Radio Shack. Customers may sign up for Comcast Video Services at a Radio Shack store.

Major agreement with Time/Warner, Sprint/Nextel for telephone number and Internet surfing capabilities.

Now offers CBS on Demand for \$.99 a download.

Donated 3 months worth of digital service for an auction at Wheeler High School.

Tobias asked if Bairos had checked into a previous request of is there going to be a rate decrease for analog subscribers because of the fewer analog channels now available. Bairos response was he would have an answer next meeting.

D. Thames Valley Communication Report – 8.6 strand miles, 7.5 coax miles, and 8.14 fiber miles have been installed.

In September 86% of calls were answered within 16 seconds and 99% within 2 minutes.

Two channels have been added. 1. Pentagon Channel – Channel 98 and 2. WCTX UPN Digital – Channel 107.

Two network upgrades to handle the strong Internet growth have been added.

Designing future areas of TVC build so that pole attachment rights may be obtained when the Town of Groton is completed.

Sponsoring a holiday campaign to fund the local Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization.

Kelley asked TVC Rep. Andersen if going to Channel 12 has been considered. Anderson answered that it hasn't been considered.

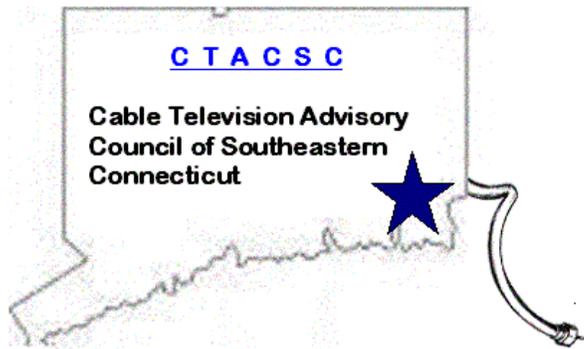
III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider – Frank Facchini reported that a DPUC hearing was held October 12, 2005.

Facchini stated that he was planning on filing a late file with the DPUC which must be in by November 18, 2005.

Facchini is working on the SECT budget. Facchini named the SECT Board of Directors they are: State Representative Diane Urban, Executive Director of the Pawcatuck Neighbor Center Vicki Anderson and Phil Butta of Groton Parks and Rec.

Also is working with a realtor for a location.



Hearing with DPUC was held October 12, 2005 and did not go well. Members of the hearing were surprised at the \$300,000. price list of equipment compared to the initial proposal of \$160,000. Kelley and Greeley were questioned aggressively by Comcast's attorney, which to them seemed excessive. The subsequent decision was to dismiss Southeastern Connecticut Television's application without prejudice. Facchini was advised by the CTACSC to: 1. accept dismissal. 2. resolve equipment issues 3. formulate a better business plan 4. get TVC & Comcast back on SECT's side.

Facchini has decided to continue with process to late file by November 18, 2005 and possibly asking for an extension. Facchini stated in response to equipment price, after consulting with a company that installs this equipment and factoring the low value and old age of the present equipment, to put together a studio in today's market would cost \$300,000. So little has been purchased presently that no one should be surprised at the cost.

B. Report on Web page progress – Web page is in a state of limbo. Kelley asked Jeanne Robbins to meet with Jim Griffith to see what is needed to get the Web page up and running.

C. Review of Council Goals – Still support Facchini as third party provider.

Hakkinen passed out an updated e-mail and land mail list of Advisory Council members and contacts; please contact him with any corrections or additions.

IV. New Business

A. Welcome to new Councilors – The Council welcomed Jeanne Robbins representing N.Stonington (Jeanne is a Voluntown resident). Robbins replaces Jim Griffith. The Council also welcomed (in absentia) Clint Kennedy representing Stonington, replacing Tim Chokas.

B. Initiative to pursue the council's narrow casting vision – Comcast rep Bairos was asked if Comcast would support narrow casting. Bairos response was Comcast holds position that was previously stated at previous franchise renewal hearings. Kelley suggested using Treasury money to fund grants of approximately \$5,000.00 per town to purchase equipment to enable towns for narrow casting. Also stated need to petition DPUC to change franchise agreements to include narrow casting. Kelley expressed continuing frustration at Comcasts's inability to offer a direct response.

Bairos left meeting following this discussion.

Suggestions were made for Council members to visit their towns to present use of narrow casting. Kelley asked Hakkinen to establish the meeting with the Ledyard Town Council.

Tobias stated towns are eager and ready to go to narrow casting.

C. Update on use of e-mail as it relates to freedom of information- Greeley suggested the restriction of use of e-mail to sending informational letters, not for discussions, or to conduct business. Too much e-mail conducting business could be perceived as an illegal meeting.

D. Comments from Councilors – Hakkinen passed out a fact sheet on the Cable TV provider services to Southeastern Connecticut.

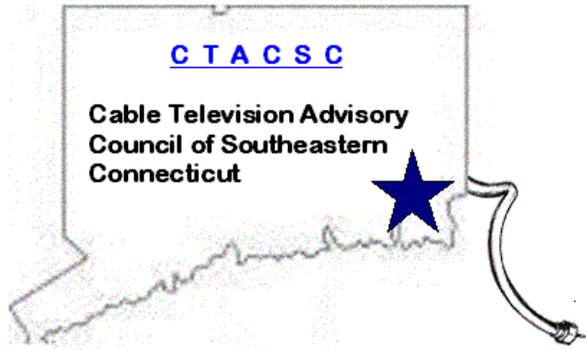
He asked if anyone had any changes to notify him.

Greeley stated disappointment in lack of response to narrow casting by Comcast. Also stated that last complaint was listened to about channel line-up.

Ingraham suggested adding to the next meeting's agenda the use of a tape recorder at Council meetings to help with minute accuracy.

VI. Adjournment – Hakkinen moved to adjourn the meeting, Tobias seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Hakkinen