



Vernon Area Cable Advisory Council

VERNON AREA CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL Minutes of Meeting dated June 15, 2017

Community Voice Channel Conference Room
105 Notch Road
Bolton, Connecticut

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Attending Members: Paul Batterson, Tolland Representative; Elaine Buchardt, Andover; Justin Waine, Ellington

Attending Guests: Nick Lavigne, CVC Executive Director

1. **Call to Order. Review of last meeting.** Paul Batterson called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. in the Community Voice Channel Meeting Room. Elaine Buchardt made a motion to approve the April 19, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Justin Waine. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. **CVC Report** –Nick Lavigne reported that the Craft Fair held to raise funds for HD studio equipment went well. He noted that their field equipment is HD but the studio equipment is SD and it would be best if they had the same.

Nick also noted that some programming is being simulcasted on Comcast in the 1000 numbers and he doesn't know why. With John Bairos as their Comcast representative gone, he wasn't sure who to talk to about this or who to call when he might have other questions. Paul Batterson suggested that until they are notified of a replacement, that he contact Sharon Codeanne, via her Comcast email.

Nick Lavigne said the CVC has also started an online radio endeavor: CVCradio.org, where they play legally copyrighted music. It's an idea which could possibly draw in some new people.

Justin Waine said the Ellington High School graduation was filmed on Youtube. He will send a link to Nick.

Paul Batterson asked about the CVC finances and if they are still in good shape. Nick Lavigne said things are good. He said they are slowly drawing down some of their surplus funds intentionally each year to supplement the HD project, as a sort of sinking fund. Nick noted that a program was established several years ago that set subscriber fees and those fees are raised each year basically to keep up with inflation. However, the formula never took into account continued decreases in the subscriber pool as people switch to other methods to receive their programming. There was a discussion about possibly checking with other area Community Voice Channels to pool data to see if there is a trend.

Paul Batterson brought up the Connecticut Statewide Video Advisory Council looking again to see if anyone might be interested in attending these meetings, which are held about four times a year at a restaurant in Cromwell. Elaine Buchardt said she might consider it as she is a member of both the VACAC and the CVC Board.

3. **Treasurer's Report** – Paul Batterson distributed the latest report with the usual expenses. He said he renewed the post office box for the VACAC and ordered checks.
4. **Other Matters** – The VACAC discussed the upcoming fundraiser for the CVC on November 11, 2017 at the Ellington Ridge Country Club. A save the date postcard had been sent out. The event will include food, wine/beer tasting, and a live and silent auction. Nick Lavigne said they are hoping to have about 125 people at the event. The keynote speaker will be Sarah Gallardo of Sarah Speaks Up, a non-profit that helps battered women. Her organization will also receive a portion of the proceeds. A suggestion was made at the April meeting to buy ten tickets for a VACAC table, which could include a guest each. Elaine Buchardt made a motion, seconded by Paul Batterson to use VACAC funds to purchase ten tickets for the event. All were in favor. It was also noted that Larry Perosino has previously stated he was in favor of doing so. Paul Batterson presented Nick Lavigen with a VACAC check payable to the Community Voice Channel for \$600.
5. **Future meetings** – Comcast attendance? Frequency? - Paul Batterson said from his communications with Comcast, it appears that when a new Comcast representative is hired, he or she may only attend two VACAC meetings a year. Because past meetings have always involved a lot of give and take discussion with the Comcast representative, there was a question as to whether they should only meet twice a year also. There was agreement for now to set a meeting for September and reassess at that time. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary