



Vernon Area Cable Advisory Council

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VERNON AREA CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL Minutes of Meeting dated April 19, 2017

Community Voice Channel Conference Room
105 Notch Road
Bolton, Connecticut

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

Attending Guests: John Bairos, Comcast; Nick Lavigne, CVC Executive Director

1. **Call to Order. Review of last meeting.** Paul Batterson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Community Voice Channel Meeting Room.
2. **CVC Report** –Nick Lavigne reported that the Easter outreach event went well with about 67 families attending. Their next event will be a Craft Fair on May 20 on CVC grounds. It is a small fundraiser where vendors will pay a fee for table space. There will also be a fall gala fundraiser, Saturday, November 11, at the Ellington Ridge Country Club. This will be a wine (wine, beer, cider, spirits) tasting and an auction.

Nick also reported that they did a show on Connecticut Wineries which did very well and won three awards. He directed and edited it and shot a lot of the footage. He said they will try to pick up the show again this summer.

Elaine Buchardt, who recently joined the CVC Board, said the Board encourages its members to take classes and volunteer with some of the programs so they have a better understanding of how the CVC works. She said she is very impressed by all that the CVC Board does.

Justin Waine asked if the CVC is still doing the channel guide. Nick said they are but that they used to send the guide to Rovi. Rovi recently acquired Tivo, and this may be why Justin does not get the guide anymore.

3. **Connecticut Statewide Video Advisory Council** – Paul Batterson asked Nick Lavigne to check with the CVC Board to see if anyone might be interested in attending these meetings. They meet about four times a year at a restaurant in Cromwell.
4. **Review Minutes of the December 7, 2016 Meeting** – Larry Perosino made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Paul Batterson. Motion was unanimously approved.
5. **Comcast Report** – John Bairos reported that effective April 25, 2017, Comcast will be realigning its high-definition channels grouping them into genres to make programs easier to locate. He noted that customers were notified in a mailing with a list of Frequently Asked Questions. This was a nationwide initiative and only impacts channels about 1000.

Larry Perosino had inquired about a hook up for a customer on Bald Hill Road in Tolland. John Bairos said this was a non-standard installation and Comcast provided the homeowner with an estimate on April 9. An incentive was included in the price. The homeowner will need to decide if he wishes to pursue the installation.

Larry Perosino had inquired about the loss of three Fox Sports channels. John Bairos said Comcast has not been able to reach an agreement and so the rights to carry those signals have been terminated. These were Fox College Sports that were part of the Sports Entertainment Package. Larry Perosino noted that Comcast has gotten the YES Network back.

Elaine Buchardt asked about Netflix. John Bairos said Comcast customers can enroll with Netflix and get billed for it on their regular Comcast bill.

6. **Customers' rights to privacy and information sharing by Comcast** – Paul Batterson noted that in March, Congress rescinded a rule that prohibited providers from being allowed to share or sell information about its customers. He asked about Comcast's plans and if they would notify customers if they were to share or sell customer information.

John Bairos said this refers to internet service and customers' web-browsing history. He said the FCC wanted the authority to regulate privacy on the internet and they installed rules on internet providers, which were not placed on search engines. So in order to level the playing field, they lifted that rule. He said Comcast does not collect web-browsing histories and has no intention of doing so. He noted that search engines including Facebook and Google do this, which is why internet users get pop-up ads that relate to their searches.

7. **Treasury Report** – Paul Batterson distributed a copy of the latest report for members to review. The only activity since their last meeting were for the routine payments. Presently the balance in the account is about \$2,400.

Larry Perosino suggested the VACAC might want to consider making a donation to the CVC gala, either by purchasing an auction item or for tickets to it as a possible use for excess funds in their account. Elaine Buchardt said they could purchase a 10-pack of tickets for \$500. Tickets are sold for \$70 individually. The fundraiser will go toward helping the CVC update their studio. The VACAC agreed to think on this and discuss it further at their next meeting. Elaine Buchardt said the CVC is now offering radio and is starting to get that up live, so they won't have the canned music they currently use.

8. **Scheduling of Next Meeting and Adjournment** – The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Voice Channel Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary

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