



Vernon Area Cable Advisory Council

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VERNON AREA CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL Minutes of Meeting dated June 13, 2018

Community Voice Channel Conference Room
105 Notch Road
Bolton, Connecticut

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
18 JUN 20 PM 3:09

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

Attending Guests: Nick Lavigne, CVC Executive Director

1. **Call to Order. Approval of Minutes.** Paul Batterson called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. in the Community Voice Channel Meeting Room. The Council briefly discussed some changes in programming including loss of the Big Ten Network and Comcast NBC regional sports channels. The minutes of the March 28, 2018 meeting were approved.
2. **CVC Report – Nick Lavigne –** Nick Lavigne reported that he received the grant he applied for from the Hartford Foundation for Giving. The grant was for about \$97,000 and Elaine Buchardt said the CVC put in about another \$51,000. The console is being constructed and parts are being ordered. The equipment will all be digital and provide a higher resolution. The set-up will provide a more real world experience.

Justin Waine asked if Nick got the big media panel. Nick Lavigne said they got the new one, 1ME panel. (The large one was 4ME). Nick said he expects this new equipment will result in an increase in the number of people coming to use the equipment. He said in the past, when people learned of the equipment they previously had, they often did not return.

Elaine Buchardt said the timing for them getting the grant was very good, as the switcher for all the in-studio equipment literally failed the same day they got the grant. Larry Perosino asked if the CVC will be able to broadcast in HD. Nick said if they want an HD channel, they will need to discuss this with Comcast.

Larry Perosino asked how the CVC found out about the Hartford Foundation for Giving and the grant. Elaine Buchardt said Nick Lavigne had been looking into it, and when the CVC Board learned that, they noted that two board members had gotten grants from the Foundation for other needs. Nick said he had attended a conference where a representative from NPR talked about how they received a grant through them.

Elaine Buchardt said she also had a connection at the Hartford Foundation for Giving. She said she ended up attending a listening tour the Foundation was holding at the Rockville Library and she then filmed one in Hebron. It was her first field project and she learned how to do editing. She said the CVC Board is now also looking into other grant opportunities for such things as lighting.

Paul Batterson brought up the Connecticut Statewide Video Advisory Council again, which meets a few times a year at a restaurant in Cromwell. He suggested Elaine might wish to attend as their representative. Larry Perosino said they might also know of some grant resources. Elaine said in the past the time they held their meetings was a conflict for her, but she would look into it again.

Elaine Buchardt said the CVC expects to hold a grand opening to show their new equipment when everything is up and running. Nick Lavigne said they are aiming for the end of July.

Paul Batterson asked if the CVC Board had any concerns about the viability of CVC with so much competition cable has against it, and customers often leaving for other options. Elaine Buchardt said they are aware of the challenge, which is why they do a lot of fundraising. Paul also asked how the CVC was doing financially. Nick Lavigne said they are doing well.

3. **Website** – Paul Batterson said the website has been neglected for some time and he welcomed members to check it out and see if there might be anything they would want to post, such as articles of interest pertaining to cable. He provided the link and password.

Annie Gentile, Recording Secretary, said she could post meeting minutes to the site. Paul Batterson noted that the VACAC has or had a link to the CVC site on its website. He asked Nick Lavigne to post a link to the VACAC site on the CVC site. Larry Perosino said he will check to see if their site has been updated to reference PURA instead of the DPUC, and update if needed.

The Council also held a brief discussion about net neutrality, noting it was in the news recently that net neutrality has ended.

4. **Financial Report** – Paul Batterson provided copies of an up-to-date financial report. He noted that he was away on vacation when the post office box rental came due and that he was charged \$22 for a late fee for not renewing it on time. He asked if the Board would be willing to allow him to reimburse himself for the \$22 payment. There was consensus for Paul to do so.

The Council discussed the topic of scholarships which had been brought up at the previous meeting. Larry Perosino said he was in favor of it, but questioned if they should give out the entire \$5,000 or leave in a buffer amount in case an unexpected expense comes up or another opportunity for giving for which they would like to participate. Justin noted that since they do not plan to give out scholarships until next year, they will by then have received their annual \$2,000 from Comcast to be used for expenses and a buffer. There was also consensus to hold an award ceremony at the CVC to make it more personal and to promote the CVC. There was a suggestion that some of the high school volunteers at CVC may be worthy recipients of their scholarships. The Council will begin promoting the scholarship when the next school year begins.

Elaine Buchardt noted that the next CVC fundraiser will also be held in May of 2019.

5. **Scheduling of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 in the Community Voice Channel Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary