



# New Paltz Public Access Television *Joint Public Access Committee*

## Meeting Minutes - 8/7/2023

*Held in-person at the New Paltz Community Center  
with remote attendance capabilities via Zoom web conferencing.*

---

### **Attendees:**

**Anton Stewart, Chair / Village member:** in-person  
**Robert Fagan, PA Coordinator:** in-person  
**Jason Warren, Village member:** in-person  
**Alex Dean, Town member:** via Zoom  
**Joe Davis, Town member:** via Zoom

---

### **Meeting Starts:** at 6:40 PM.

**PATV Coordinator's report:** submitted by Coordinator Bob Fagan for Committee review, attached. Motion to approve made at 6:41 PM by Chair Anton Stewart, seconded by Coordinator Robert Fagan. Approved unanimously.

**Committee Secretary:** Chair Anton Stewart stated that the Committee requires a secretary and suggested Member Alex Dean, who agreed. Motion to appoint made at 6:43 PM by Chair Anton Stewart, seconded by Coordinator Robert Fagan. Approved unanimously.

**NPZ TV Phone System:** Anton informed the Committee that NPZTV now has a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone number at +1 (845) 396-1017. The IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system is still a work in progress. IVR messages and map attached. The Committee discussed incorporating a questionnaire at a later date, but agreed that the questionnaire should be created in a web-compatible format first and posted to the NPZTV website.

**Franchise Renewal Update:** Anton expressed a positive outlook on future communications with Spectrum Cable, based on increased cooperation between NPZTV and Spectrum via Spectrum's new Government Relations Coordinator, Alex Camarda. Three key areas of the new Franchise Agreement need to be resolved: inclusion of terms and conditions regarding cable

internet services, inclusion of requirements for technical improvements to permit Channel 23 to broadcast in HD, and continuation/transfer of the currently-existing senior discount program.

**Cable Internet Services:** The Committee agreed that due to the currently unclear nature of how authority and enforcement regarding the management of cable internet services operate via the FCC, negotiations with Spectrum regarding this topic are likely to be unproductive. Follow-up actions include potentially reaching out to local legislators for assistance, notably 18th District Congressman Pat Ryan, and negotiating with Spectrum to request that in lieu of these terms, Spectrum covers the cost of business-class cable internet services and designates a fixed IP address for NPZTV use at the Community Center. In return, NPZTV would be willing to expand operations to include open internet access and technology training for seniors at the Community Center. This request will be brought to the Town Supervisor for consideration.

**Technical Improvements:** Anton and Coordinator Robert Fagan agreed that the outlook for receiving technical improvements from Spectrum as requested is currently positive, and may occur before the Franchise Agreement is finalized.

**Senior Discount:** Anton reports that in recent discussions between NPZTV and Spectrum via Alex Camarda, Spectrum is willing to continue to provide discounts to seniors, however is unwilling to continue operations under the currently-existing system as it does not comply with Spectrum's attempts to standardize their municipal discount agreements. Robert states that the Committee is waiting on confirmation from Spectrum regarding the amount of seniors currently enrolled in the discount program; current estimates are approximately 50 seniors. The Committee discussed alternate strategies for seniors to receive equal discounts, including transitioning existing seniors to current Spectrum discount campaigns with the caveat that for annual programs, seniors will retain eligibility every year.

**Other Items:** The Committee discussed increasing the franchise fee percentage by 0.5% in order to increase the operating budget for NPZTV, but agreed that if this were to happen, NPZTV must officially employ someone part-time to ensure accountability. The Committee agreed to review the current operating budget, project an increase in budget based on the suggested 0.5% franchise fee increase, and calculate the monthly & annual costs to individual Town customers associated with the fee increase.

**Engagement Brainstorming:** Anton requested that Joe Davis create a video for web distribution aimed at requesting content for broadcast on NPZTV. Joe agreed to create such a video, and reported that per his social media engagement plan, NPZTV now has an Instagram and TikTok account. Anton has added an icon for the Instagram account to the NPZTV website. Member Alex Dean shared that he created a 'seeking submissions' video for posting on social media / the NPZTV website. Robert confirmed that the video could be aired on the station if it's provided as an MP4, and requested that the files be provided at 1080p per distribution standards. Robert suggested that the Committee organize a 'premiere' event once the Franchise Agreement is complete.

**New Business:** Robert stated that he's been researching IP (Internet Protocol) based cameras for installation at the Community Center as a system for monitoring and sharing the weather.

The Committee agreed that the ideal location for placement would be in the Community Center office, facing the window and pointing towards the Shawangunk Mountain Range.

**Website:** Anton updated the Committee that the website's Channel Guide has been updated to share programming information for the upcoming week, but needs to adjust the plugin so that it is appropriately sized for the webpage it is located on. Anton also suggested the possibility of having a direct submission form for videos, but stated this would require a dedicated IP address for NPZTV to use regarding file management. Alex asked the Committee to confirm a set of 'Core Values' to publish on the website. This will be an item for discussion and final confirmation at the next meeting, with the draft values being 'Independent, Non-Commercial, and Community Focused'. Robert suggested that regarding the online submission form, the Committee make it explicitly clear that submissions are for individuals and organizations operating within broadcast range only. Anton recommended reviewing the submission requirements posted on the website to ensure compliance with copyright laws, and stated that the current Franchise Agreement and Producer Release Form are now posted on the website.

**New Business:** The next NPZTV Committee meeting will be scheduled for Monday, September 18, to accommodate scheduling around Labor Day and September 11th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Coordinators Report 8-7-2023  
Bob Fagan, Public Access Coordinator

Equipment outages:

None reported.

Budget requests:

No answer from the Mayor concerning Village financial support for Public Access to resume.

Programming:

Nothing new to note on programming. Town & School meeting replays and morning yoga/tai Chi programs.