

Joint Village/Town Public Access Committee
Minutes: April 1, 2019

Present: Anton Stewart, Committee Chair
Andrea Russo
Bob Fagan, Program Coordinator

Absent: Kevin Kelly
Don Kerr, Village Liaison
Dan Torres, Town Liaison

Call to Order: Anton Stewart, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Business:

1. Approval of Minutes from meeting of March 4th. Andrea asked if minutes could be reviewed and approved online, since Kevin Kelly was absent.
2. Program Coordinator's Report

a. Technical issues:

March 5th Village Planning Board meeting was broadcast without sound. It was determined the next day that the recording level dial had been turned down to zero. Bob reported that to the Village and they changed the combination to the media closet lock.

Anton was able to successfully stream the Public Access Committee meeting of 3/4/19 and will stream tonight's meeting.

b. March Programming

New Producers: No new contact with the producers who reached out last month; Bob will contact them.

New Programming: Slice of New Paltz highlighting Pastor Jennifer Berry, 4 new Music Vault Shows. Because it was Mental Health Awareness Month, Bob replayed the four New Paltz Safer Community videos that were about the opioid crisis. Bob and Don Kerr are working on a retrospective Slice of New Paltz show about the Gilded Otter for broadcast in April, when the ownership is transferred to the new owners.

There were two new Bulletins

3. Contact with Charter/Spectrum

There was a follow-up telephone conference on 3/28/19 with representatives Kevin Egan and Jennifer Young, from Charter/Spectrum. Mayor Rogers, Anton and Andrea were also on the call. Kevin introduced Jennifer, who is moving into the position of Director of Government Affairs. The Mayor and PATV members asked for answers to the questions that had been asked at the initial meeting including:

Kevin noted that he updated the draft Franchise Agreement (not sure we received a copy yet)

PATV had asked about a modulator for the high school, as allowed in the current town franchise agreement – Kevin needs to check to see if there is fiber available there.

PATV had asked about resetting the priority of the village/town modulators – Kevin will communicate with Bob Fagan directly.

PATV asked to have the modulators up HD – Kevin repeated that Spectrum is “under no obligation to do that”. After a long discussion, Anton asked him to provide a better explanation.

Major Rogers discussed switching the Village Hall Internet over to Fiber – Kevin had said he would check to see if that was possible. Tim mentioned that the Village was also in discussion with another company that might be able to switch them over.

PATV asked for an online program guide – Kevin replied that it was not an option. After a long discussion, Anton requested a detailed explanation of why this was not possible.

We reviewed the number of current subscribers. There are 1048 Village cable television subscribers/households. Kevin was not able to indicate if these subscribers had cable only, cable with internet, or cable, internet and phone. He was asked to check both 100 Woodland Pond Circle, and the addresses on George Danskin Way to make sure they are listed as Village subscribers. Kevin indicated that he could not provide the number of households that subscribe to internet only.

The Town Supervisor sent an email requesting information about the number of Town cable television subscribers, which is currently 1936.

For comparison:

2011: Town 2132, Village 1202

2017: Town 2042, Village 1071

2019: Town 1936, Village 1048

Andrea raised the issue of whether or not we really want a modulator at the High School, and that before it gets installed, they should be aware, ready and interested in having it. High School students in the audience noted that Brendon Woods is now teaching broadcasting/television and not Jen Cone.

4. Future plans for PA Committee

Don had reported by email that the current Village Budget for 2019-2020 preserved a total of \$5200.00 for the Public Access line.

The idea of establishing a Not for Profit, 501c3 was discussed. Anton noted that he made one change to the draft Certificate of Incorporation for an organization to be called "New Paltz Television, Inc.", to include other media and not just television. Discussion followed regarding the need to establish a location, such as the office Mayor Rogers offered the committee; the need for 4 directors, which could temporarily be the PATV members; the need for a Treasurer; and options for funding, such as grant applications. There was some discussion about Mayor Rogers' suggestion to raise the Village franchise fee to help fund public access. Andrea offered to look into whether or not this would require a public hearing, and approval by the Public Service Commission.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is Monday, 5/6/19, 7 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Andrea R. Russo