

Joint Village/Town Public Access Committee
Minutes: March 4, 2019

Present: Anton Stewart, Committee Chair
Andrea Russo
Kevin Kelly

Also Present: Don Kerr, Village Liaison
Dan Torres, Town Liaison

Absent: Bob Fagan, Program Coordinator

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

Business:

1. Program Coordinator's Report

a. Technical issues:

Bob submitted a report prior to the meeting. Sound cables to the modulator were displaced when the tray table holding the computer splayed out. Spectrum techs came out and fixed the cables. A sturdier table is needed.

Audio levels for boundary mics were set too high – Bob reset the levels.

February 27th VB Meeting - there was no sound during live streaming

b. New Producers:

Allyson Ferrara, a local filmmaker, who produced New Paltz shorts, reached out about submitting programming for Channel 23. She asked if there was studio space available.

Robert Gertler, of MOKM creative services, has a program called: Seriously local: We are the Hudson Valley". Bob contacted him about broadcasting on Channel 23, as long as they edited to remove any promotion from his commercial sponsor.

Richard Gymboss, a musician and video producer may also have some interest in producing programs.

c. February Programming

Bob has been downloading SUNY NP shows from YouTube including a short about interns for the Denizen Theater, a new piece on the renaming of the SUNY Dorms, and a Future Summit

2018 piece about the Hudson Valley. There have been some reruns of Slice of New Paltz, and 6 new Music Vault shows. Bob also broadcast programming pertaining to Black History for Black History month in February. There have been 8 new Bulletins.

2. Town Clerk's request for Meeting Minutes

Committee discussed prior opinion offered by Village Attorney that as an advisory committee, the DVD archive of Public Access committee meetings was sufficient record of meeting discussion. It was also noted, that without a secretary, one committee member may not be able to fully participate if they are also tasked with minute taking. The Village Clerk requested minutes regardless of this. It was decided that Andrea will take minutes for the current time period. They may be a simple summary of the agenda items and any actions taken.

3. Response to discussion at Joint Village/Town Board Meeting on February 7th.

At that meeting, Mayor Rogers requested that the PA Committee clarify our plans for the future, which include possible alternatives to hiring a Program Coordinator. Andrea noted that Supervisor Bettez also expressed an interest in having the Town start streaming meetings at that joint meeting.

Don mentioned that Mayor Rogers had suggested raising the franchise fee on subscribers' bills, in order to generate revenue from users of cable television. It is currently 3.5%, and can be as high as 5%. Andrea noted that there was a complicated process involved and it may not be as simple as having the board vote on a resolution. She offered to look into the process. The small percentage of the current franchise fee revenue

4. Formation of Not-for Profit Organization

The committee discussed the need for an organization with a minimum of 4 directors and a location. Anton submitted a draft Certificate of Incorporation for New Paltz Television, or NPZ TV, which lists proposed purposes including managing programming on PEG channels and other media. He will reach out to the mayor to see if Village Hall, the location of a possible future studio/office, can be listed as the location.

5. Discussion of meeting with Kevin Egan, from Charter/Spectrum, regarding village cable franchise. There is a new person scheduled to replace Kevin as Government Liaison. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled. We have not received answers to our original questions.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is Monday, 4/1/19, 7 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Andrea R. Russo