



New Paltz Public Access Television *Joint Public Access Committee*

Meeting Minutes - 9/18/2023

*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
Joe Davis, Town member: via Zoom

Meeting Starts: at 6:37 PM.

PATV Coordinator's report: submitted by Coordinator Bob Fagan for Committee review, attached. Motion to approve made at 6:46 PM by Member Joe Davis, seconded by Chair Anton Stewart. Approved unanimously.

8/7/2023 Meeting Minutes: submitted by Secretary Alex Dean prior to the meeting for Committee review. Motion to approve made at 6:48 PM by Member Jason Warren, seconded by Joe Davis. Approved unanimously.

Franchise Agreement Progress Update:

Chair Anton Stewart reported that communications with Charter through Alex Camarda regarding the franchise agreement update have continued to maintain a positive momentum, and that Charter is willing to fund the changeover to broadcasting in HD. The current logistics issue is managing the senior discount program. Though Charter is willing to continue the discounts for existing recipients, the current system requires Alex Camarda to manually and personally apply the discount to individual recipients.

For the record, the current senior discount provides for one month's free service after 12 consecutive on time payments. So if a customer has paid for a whole year, they will receive the thirteenth month free. This only applies to the base cable package, however; not add-on services.

Chair Stewart continues that Alex Camarda has suggested Charter could partner with a not-for-profit organization with an interest in senior aid, and suggested ideas like low-cost

internet services. However, that specific operation would get into a legal gray area, since the Public Service Commission specifically excludes cable internet services from the franchise agreement.

Discussion of Town and Village commitment to the future of Public Access Television:

Chair Stewart reports that he has not yet received a formal response to his last communication with Supervisor Bettez or NPZTV's liaison with the Town, although the Town discussed NPZTV at their last public meeting, without notifying or inviting the Committee. In his opinion, the Chair Stewart states that from his viewing of the meeting, there was displayed a general lack of understanding on the Town's behalf of current operations within NPZTV. The Town discussed the decline in cable subscriptions, and projected that the Town will collect less revenue from the associated franchise fees in the future. Chair Stewart also reports that the meeting showed a general lack of understanding regarding the function of user-generated content online, the algorithmic and commercialized nature of current social media platforms and parallel content distribution networks, and purpose of public access television as a space without commercial influence, which increases subscriber retention through the development of a direct community connection between the channel and its viewership.

Chair Stewart suggests that the Committee develop a presentation to bring to the Board and the general public at a future meeting, explaining the mission of NPZTV, its current operational situation, including benefits and roadblocks, the existing franchise agreement and newly proposed agreement, and the channel's plans for future development. Chair Stewart suggests this be the new main objective for the Committee until further notice, and states that he will continue communications with Alex Camarda. The proposed franchise agreement will request the inclusion of HD broadcast services for NPZTV and the Committee will continue discussions on how to manage the senior discount program in the future. Coordinator Fagan adds that the Committee possesses all the information they need at this point except 100% confirmation of the number of current recipients of the senior discount, so progress on the presentation should be relatively straightforward. The Committee agrees to bring the project into a separate email chain discussion following adjournment of this meeting

Review of Public Awareness and Engagement in Ch 23:

Member Joe Davis updates the committee that his short film, Through the Brush, partially filmed in New Paltz, has been completed and submitted to film festivals. He will be hosting a live Q&A and screening of the film on November 2, and would be interested in having NPZTV air a recording of the film and Q&A, back-to-back. He has not yet been successful in contacting some of his prospective interviewees for a proposed local interviews program, but remains optimistic. Chair Stewart suggests calling with the clear intention that the interview is for NPZTV to generate interest, and Davis agrees it is a good idea. Davis suggests that these projects can be incorporated into the presentation to the Town as an example of current and future projects, and that the Committee can film interviews with itself of members explaining their feelings about and intentions with NPZTV. Chair Stewart agrees, and suggests bringing cameras to the next meeting.

Closing / Next Meeting:

Chair Stewart motions that this meeting be adjourned and that the next meeting be held on Monday, October 2, at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Coordinator Fagan, approved unanimously at 7:22 PM.

Coordinators Report 9-18-2023
Bob Fagan, Public Access Coordinator

Equipment outages:

None to report.

Budget requests:

No answer directly from the Mayor concerning Village financial support for Public Access to resume, although he did discuss such support at a village meeting last week. Town Supervisor did reply to me about the franchise negotiations and said we can proceed, but be prepared for resistance to any franchise percentage increase.

Programming:

Ran 9-11 memorial videos last Monday. Other than that, we are basically showing town meetings and yoga in the morning videos. Waiting on HD enabled broadcast.

Other:

Town requested a list of what the coordinator does for the payment provided. Attached is the contract approved by the town for said duties. Town has not reimbursed for the cable subscription although it is in the contract. Does not include technical support for Spectrum SD outages nor technical support for town when their Zoom meetings are not uploaded correctly, nor editing to remove dead time when town meetings do not start on time, nor editing to rename meetings so they are easily searchable. Also coordinator edits meetings that accidentally are made into multiple parts when zoom is started and stopped in middle of meetings and for a few times when people are recorded talking during executive sessions.