

Groton Cable Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes 5/5/10

Meeting was called to order at 7:47 p.m. Present were members Dave Melpignano, Dorothy Davis, and Janet Sheffield. Also present was Access Director Bob Colman and prospective member Neil Colicchio later in the evening.

MINUTES:

Minutes for March 9th meeting weren't available for review and will be voted upon at a future meeting.

GENERAL UPDATE:

48 Hour Film Project: Bob screened the film for committee members. It was produced last weekend and will be entered into the judging.

Charter & Verizon payments: Bob reported that Charter had sent its quarterly payment of \$49,614.52, down from \$64K last year. However Verizon recently paid \$8389 for its first 6 months which makes up for some of the difference.

Various: Bob let the committee know that he went slightly over budget on a few items in March, spending \$382 for Media (DVD's and tapes), \$200 for ACM entries and \$135 for the 48 Hour Film competition.

CHARTER RENEWAL:

Bob and Dave reported that we haven't heard anything back from Charter in response to the letter sent to them by Mark Haddad and the committee a few months back.

INTERNSHIPS:

It's time to advertise for student internships, and Bob suggested the committee consider capping the stipend at \$1000 per project in order to make more available. In past years, they were offered at \$2000, but most have billed at less than \$1000. Internships are offered to high school age students (graduating seniors as well), who must be town residents or be students at GDRHS.

Dorothy moved that the committee cap this year's projects at \$1000 per project, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:

Bob reported that the studio has some surplus equipment that hasn't been used in several years, which he'd like to get rid of by selling it or donating it. Dave said he may be able

to use the equipment as teaching tools in his high school Videography course and moved that we ask the town to declare the equipment surplus and then donate it to the school district. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

PRODUCERS GROUP:

Bob brought up the issue of getting a producers group started in the hopes of attracting some sponsorships by local businesses. This has been done in the past, primarily by Around Town. He'll see if there's interest in doing this by any of the current show producers.

EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT POLICY:

Bob plans to draft a policy and will email it to members for future consideration.

ACCOUNTS AS OF 3/31/10:

Main Account: \$187,022.97
Equipment Grant: \$ 23,406.27
Sponsorship Acct: \$ 2,346.67

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

Bob requested approval to purchase the following items for a total of approximately \$1283: 2 hand-held mikes with windscreens and flags, 4 way KVM w/cables & wheelbase for rack, archiving boxes for DVD storage, cinefoil, audio converter for BOS, Panasonic camera battery, and P2 32GB memory card.

Janet made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$1300 for purchasing the above equipment, which was unanimously approved.

Bob also reported that the town is updating its current phone system with new equipment and that we may have to pay \$900 to have the two studio lines included in this update. Dorothy made a motion that in the event the town doesn't pay for the phones, we approve \$900 of our funds for the installation of the new phone system. The committee unanimously approved this motion.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER:

The committee discussed adding Neil Colicchio as a new member. Janet moved that the committee recommend the appointment of Neil Colicchio to the Cable Advisory Committee. The motion was unanimously approved, and Dave will speak with Patrice at town hall about proceeding.

OTHER:

The next meeting date was set for Wed., June 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the studio. Bob also informed the committee that he'll be requesting a second HD/P2 Camera with accessories soon, for a cost of \$5000-\$6000. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.