

**Groton Cable Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes 3/14/11**

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. in the television studio at GDRHS. Present were members Dave Melpignano, Dorothy Davis, Janet Sheffield, and Neil Collichio, as well as Access Director Bob Colman.

LIST OF MATERIALS AT MEETING:

1. Agenda (Bob) and Program Director Notes (Bob) for 3/14/11 Meeting

REPORT FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Customer complaints – Charter subscriber called to note displeasure with the loss of C-Span off the basic tier. Dave offered to contact the consumer and Charter.

Go Green 48-Hour Film Festival Debrief – Neil updated the committee on his crew’s experience with the festival, and expressed pride in how the young men involved worked as a team. Some equipment was accidentally damaged during the shoot and the party taking responsibility will reimburse the Channel for repairs.

Middle School “Club” Update – Teacher Linda Jones is planning to offer a 6 week program for about 16-20 8th graders. The club hopes to produce a profile piece on someone in the Middle School. She has some cameras to use and the Channel can loan her additional equipment.

Looking Ahead: Digital Modulator and new Control Room Switcher – Bob reported the current equipment is about 6 years old and is somewhat glitchy. The digital modulator will run between \$5 and \$8K and a control room switcher about \$20K.

ACCOUNTS AS OF 2/28/11:

Main Account:	\$149,268.73
Equipment Grant:	\$ 45,489.54
Sponsorship Acct:	\$ 3,096.67

Charter’s semi-annual check is due to arrive any day, according to Bob.

INTERNSHIPS:

Bob reported that last year’s internships were capped at \$1,000 each, while in other years the cap was \$2K. He recommended that we increase the cap to \$1500 per project (\$12 per hour). Following discussion, the group suggested that we use a tiered system, paying up to \$1000 for a project with one producer, up to \$1500 for a two-person project, and \$2,000 for a project

with 3 or more producers. Bob will begin advertising for interns, and will also seek two news interns.

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

Second Tapeless Consumer Camera

\$1,000

Neil approved a motion to purchase the camera for a sum NTE \$1000. Dorothy seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mass Access Membership for \$30 or \$100 (to include committee)

Dorothy moved that we purchase the \$100 membership for the committee, Neil seconded her motion and it was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Charter contract – it's due to renew by September 2012. Dorothy suggested we encourage them to start the process and check with Mark.

Verizon – we've had complaints about customers anxious to get access to Verizon FIOS. They had agreed to handle neighborhoods with underground wiring within 4 years. Dave will check with Mark and Verizon on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob reported that Jane Bouvier told him she'd like to update the Around Town set and back-drop. Dave suggested a different table might make for a more intimate interview set. Bob will talk to TWS Graphics (who produced the Emergency 911 curtain) and to Jane.

Neil reported some new programming he's investigating – he plans to seek a license for Talent Source, he's combining a show out of Townsend with Red, White and You; he's reviving the Groton Republican Town Committee program, and hopes to work with senior citizens on a travel show. He also hopes to eventually start an independent film company to produce documentaries.

Neil moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm and Dorothy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43, and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 11 at 7:30 in the studio.