

Groton Cable Advisory Committee
via Internet Conference

Meeting Minutes for: 3/14/24

In Attendance:

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Cable Committee Members: Eric Fischer, Neil Colicchio & Janet Sheffield,

Other:

Program Director - Ashley Doucette

Called to Order At: 4:30 PM

Meeting Minutes:

Janet made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11th, 2024. Eric seconded. It passed by a vote of 3-0.

The minutes of February 8th, 2024 were deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

General Updates:

- The 2024 yearbook ad was completed and submitted.
- Our Community Calendar video series has returned. It is now produced and hosted by Megan Donovan of the Groton Visitors Center.
- MotionArray is working well for us as a replacement for DigitalJuice.
- Our archive.org library now has over 3,800 files.
- The elementary school play (Pirates of Penzance) was recorded for the channel. We are waiting on the audio mix to be finalized and are currently working on titles and credits.
- Legislative update: The streaming bill has been extended to April 8th. A big push is needed to make sure that it stays on the minds of the legislators. Ashley will be submitting another letter to the two chairs of the Joint Committee tomorrow. If the streaming bill moves forward and ultimately passes, we could see revenue as early as 18 months from now.

- The 2024 Cable Survey (sent out with the census) deadline has expired. Ashley will be compiling the results for review at the next scheduled meeting. Ashley will also be working on another version for the wider community - also to be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting.

Discussion - Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Town Meeting is scheduled for March 26th. There are two cable access related articles on the warrant for this meeting. Ashley will try to crew the event in full so as to be free to answer any questions from the public.

Discussion - Franchise License Negotiations

During a follow-up conversation with Verizon's lawyer John Harrington, Ashley made a counteroffer on the suggested equipment grant of \$50,000 - asking for \$75,000. They seemed agreeable to this and will be in touch again soon.

Purchase Request(s) - Panasonic HC-X2, Mac Studio computer and Roku 43" TV

- After much consideration on the purchase of a new camera, Ashley brought forward the suggestion of a Panasonic HC-X2. The camera is very similar to the Panasonic 180 that is already in our fleet which will make for an easy transition for staff and volunteer use.

The cost of the camera is listed on the B&H website as \$2,898.

- Due to difficulties with the edit suite computer's age, it can no longer be used for its intended purpose of public use and training. Ashley suggested the purchase of a Mac Studio computer for replacement as it will provide more than enough power to tackle a number of projects. The cost of the computer is listed on the B&H website as \$2,199.

- As the Mac Studio computer does not include a monitor, Ashley suggested the purchase of a 43" Roku TV to use as a screen. The cost of the TV is listed on Best Buy's website as \$200.

- For the purchase of all of these items, Ashley asked the committee to approve up to \$5,500.

*Ashley had spoken to Mark about the funds needed to safely make it through the end of this Fiscal Year and he suggested that we amend our original line item transfer request from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in order to purchase equipment necessary to help us through the next several years.

VOTE: Janet made a motion to approve up to \$5,500 for the purchase of a Panasonic HC-X2 camera, a Mac Studio computer, and a 43" Roku TV. Neil seconded. It passed by a vote of 3-0.

Next Meeting is planned for Thursday 3/25/24 at 4:30 PM on Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at: 5:30 PM