

Branford Community Television, Inc.
Board of Directors
Draft of December Meeting Minutes
BCTV Studio, 40 Kirkham Street
December 3, 2018, 6 PM

Call to Order – Pres. T. Elton called meeting to order at 6:04 Present: Ted Ebberts (Vice Pres.arrived at 6:15), Terry Elton (Pres.), Ray Ferguson, Margot Hardenbergh (Secretary), Tom Girard, Judith Liebmann, Brenda Novak, Chip Marsh. Ex officio: Walter Mann (Station Manager), and Rob Baldo (Staff) joined the meeting after the executive session. Absent: Elizabeth Alcorn, Pat De Maio, Liz Ferguson, Kate Galambos (Treas.), Cathy Lezon and Preston Ranton

Approval of minutes for November– J. Liebman moved to accept the minutes, and C. Marsh seconded. Motion was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's report – K. Galambos had sent in the treasurer's report as attached. – T. Elton noted that there will be a Budget Review meeting on Weds. Dec. 5th, at 6:00pm at the studio. All board members are invited to attend. Any questions about the treasurer's report should be addressed then.

Executive Session – There was discussion of bonuses which will be the same as last year if last year's had been higher than the year before; if the bonus amount was the same for the last two years it was agreed that they would go up this year.

Operations Report – W. Mann noted receipt of a bill for \$546.65 for the porta potties for the Tour, and receipt of an email from the Cable Advisory Council that we owe \$250.00 as our portion of the broadcaster's liability insurance purchased by the 7-town council.

W. Mann noted that we are ahead on CUTV studio rentals.

Rob Baldo discussed the flats he has built for the studio; the 2 panels can come out of the wall and allow for a variety of backdrops. He is also planning on adding more base board at the bottom of the brick wall. J. Leibman will follow up with possible fabrics that could provide interesting backdrops.

W. Mann mentioned a new show with the Arts Alliance hosted by Frank Carrano. The staff attended the NAB's convention at Javits center. Brfd. Policeman called about lip sync videos; the neighboring police units all produce these. BCTV was asked to produce the Branford Police's video this coming Tues. And Campus Customs is pleased with the ribbon-cutting video BCTV produced for them as part of the larger video due to them for being a sponsor of the Tour.

W. Mann was then asked to discuss the latest move by the FCC to change the way cable companies handle franchise fees. Sen. Markey published on his website his call to protect the local cable channels and opposition to the "Federal Communication Commission (FCC) proposal to alter the terms of governing agreements between Local Franchising Authorities (LFA) and cable operators. Currently, towns and cities across the country are permitted to require as part of

cable franchise agreements that cable operators meet demonstrated needs by setting aside channels for public, educational, or governmental (PEG) stations. However, the Commission's proposal would permit cable companies to assign a value to these channels, and then subtract that amount, and the value they place on any other in-kind contributions, from the franchise fees the cable operator pays the local community.”

W. Mann noted that if approved this could lead to no funding of public access, and to a need to pay the cable company for the channels. North Haven's mayor is willing to support NHTV so it can continue to provide the local government programming online; but that would be a loss for the older generation who do not go online. T. Elton will discuss this with Branford's First Selectman and ask him to bring it forward to the Council of Governments and the Conference of Municipalities.

Strategic Planning – C. Marsh reported that they met before Thanksgiving, tweaked the survey and have written an article. They would like to offer an incentive to the public to participate in the survey. After much discussion a motion was made for BCTV to purchase up to \$500 in gift cards to be offered as an incentive to complete the survey. R. Ferguson seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

C. Marsh will get W.Mann the blurb for the web site and will talk to Robyn Collins - Walcott at the paper. They will try to start with the survey now, and then re-launch in January if need be.

Old/New business - J. Liebmann, with E. Alcorn, will be writing the thank you letters to this past year's Tour sponsors with an invitation to participate in the upcoming Tour. Everyone should send her the contact information for the sponsors they had enlisted.

Once again, everyone was invited to the budget review meeting Weds. Dec. 5th at 6:00pm at the studio.

Adjournment: T. Girard moved to adjourn; T. Ebberts seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm .

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Hardenbergh
BCTV Secretary

Next Meeting Monday, Jan. 7, 2019