

## CATV Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2017

Board Members: Peggy Allen, Chair; Linda Carbino; Mike Murray; Sarah Welsch

Staff Present: Bob Franzoni, Eric Chatterjee (for topic #2 only)

Start Time: 5:40 pm

1. Minutes from the January 24, 2017 meeting were voted on and approved with no changes.
2. Eric Chatterjee, a part time staff member of CATV who covers many of our local government meetings as a videographer, asked to speak to the Board regarding his concerns on several CATV matters including the recent search for the new Executive Director (E.D.) and how it was handled, as well as recent other job searches and their results. His concerns overall include an impression of a lack of clarity in these and prior searches for full-time staff positions at CATV, and hires that reflect a lack of diversity, and the failure to give recent positions to experienced videographers like him. In his broader view, the CATV meetings are supposed to be open to the public, but Eric believes there is a perceived lack of advance publicity and advertising for all our meetings. And he is concerned with the length of time after Board meetings in which the meetings' minutes are posted.

Peggy Allen, as chair and member of the E.D. search committee, talked to the method of picking the short list for the E.D. position. She and the other Search Committee members researched whether or not to tell everyone who applied but did not make the Short List of this status, but agreed not to do so in the end –the large number of applicants on this list being a factor. Eric then expressed concern that consideration was not given to his application (and those of any other current part-time videographer staff member), and at very least he/they should have been interviewed by the E.D. Search Committee. Peggy explained that the CATV Board and the Search Committee members were an all-volunteer group and they do what they can in a limited amount of time. However, Peggy agreed that the CATV Board will address all his concerns to the new E.D. on her arrival, and thanked Eric for coming to the Board now.

Bob Franzoni later provided some background clarity to what Eric had brought up, and a further discussion identified several topics to bring up with the new E.D. as well.

3. Treasurer's Report. Mike moved to accept, Linda seconds. All approved.
4. Non-public session was then called, and Bob left the meeting.
5. Executive Director's Report was given by Bob Franzoni, after he returned to the meeting:

a. Problem in Hanover with the equipment has been solved. We will go live with the first budget meeting for Hanover on Feb. 27th. Hartford's select meeting on Feb. 15th, however, will not be ready for a live feed. More dates and towns/cities' live projections were given. (Once firm, these dates will be in the next meeting minutes.)

b. Hartland Elementary event had to be cancelled due to the major winter storm that day.

c. Music Video contest is scheduled for March 5th.

d. The 48-hour film slam will kick off in April.

e. The March Annual Meeting: Bob & staff are working on the details, with Sophie and Bob acting as the MCs. Further details to follow.

f. New Items: Nora Jacobson, Mike Beahan, and Jill Michaels (Principal at Community Investments) want to help position downtown WRJ as the film center of Vermont, Bob explained. They are submitting a proposal for the USDA/Rural Development grant for a feasibility study to be done. This is possible given Briggs Opera House, the new Northern Stage center, and CATV offices. Further plans on Jacobson & company's project list could include filming at each location in WRJ or position the key organizations together in one place for filming them at one time. More details should follow.

g. Net Neutrality discussion: concerns with the U.S. Congress and the FCC wanting to scale back/eliminate the current net neutrality—an action that would stunt economic growth, jobs creation, education, civic organizing, and free expression, if this passed, and allow all internet companies to slow down and control the speed of competitive companies like Netflix—which under the previous administration installing net Science, and Transportation—was handed out and everyone present agreed unanimously that it should be sent after it is signed by Bob Franzoni and Peggy Allen as Editorial Director and Chair of the Board, respectively.

6. Other news: staff updates, including Sophie going to full time on April 17<sup>th</sup>, Emily leaving for a position at Vermont Law School, and Dylan going to 40 hours. It was announced that no TED Talks involvement is being considered at this time.

The motion to conclude the Board meeting tonight was raised by Mike and seconded by Linda, and was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.