

Minutes for October 26, 2009

Special Meeting of GATCom: Government Access Television Commission

Present: Theresa Burr-Bahner, Aldon Hynes, Marjorie Wakeman

Also: Pua Ford (coordinator & clerk), Nancy Polk

Excused: Richard Krueger was delayed by work until after the meeting adjourned

1. **Call to Order:** Burr-Bahner called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. .

2. **Approve minutes:** September 21, 2009

Hynes moved approval of these minutes; Wakeman seconded.

Vote to approve: Burr-Bahner, Hynes, Wakeman

Vote opposed: none

Abstain: none

Motion passed.

3. **Coordinator Reports**

- a. Activity: Ford reported pay rates for current student personnel. Ford offered list reports for the year-to-date budget and for programs produced. Hynes suggested getting a list of DVDs sent to the town library online so that the public would know what was available and that the programs are available there. The list as of 10/26 will be appended to these minutes.

- b. Policies & Procedures Review: Ford had made inquiries about policies concerning retention of video records and concerning circulation of materials at the library. She reported that people in the Town Clerk's office found that statutes did not require retaining video beyond 6 months, except when concerning land use matters that were challenged in court. Then the video should be retained until a year after the court's ruling. The land use staff has asked for copies of all meetings recorded by WGATV and maintains its own collection for the commissioners.

Ford heard informally from both the Library Commission chair and from the library director that the WGATV DVDs would be retained only 2 years. The director invited her to call concerning library policies, in order to help the Milford GAT committee and library. Ford will ask for WGATV DVDs to be returned so that the jewelcases might be reused.

Ford said that if this commission wants to consider its own policy on retaining video programs, it should also consider the department's limited space for storage. DVDs take less space than tapes, but several years of DVDs still push storage limitations. Files on a large (one Terabyte or so) hard-disk drive could hold more in a tighter space, although conversion to DVD would take some time if someone requested it. Ford believes a large drive would fit into this year's equipment budget.

No one knows if the Amity-Woodbridge Historical Society has an interest in preserving any video records of the town. We should try to find out what other towns do.

- c. CAC grant report: Ford is still working on this. The town's finance department recently received an invitation to apply for another grant. Because improved audio quality is our next goal, Ford asked to meet with Burr-Bahner to get equipment recommendations.

4. **Update on Regional and State Issues**

- a. ACM-NE Video Festival and One-Day Conference in West Hartford, November 7, 2009: The national ACM board has recognized the Connecticut chapter officially.
- b. GATA representative: The chairwoman of this committee needs to be advised of the change of Woodbridge representative.

By general consensus, a report from Hynes was added to the agenda.

- c. CAC: No one present had heard a report from the Woodbridge representatives. Hynes and Ford described a recent filing by Cablevision to the FCC, a request to encrypt basic tier service in their New York City franchise areas (MB docket 09-168). Although this is considered an exception to the usual FCC rule, and only concerns certain urban areas, people in other Cablevision areas and in other parts of the country are concerned that this will establish a precedent that makes PEG programming less accessible.
- d. Other: A U.S. Congresswoman from Wisconsin, Tammy Baldwin, has proposed a bill, H.R. 3745, "The Community Access Preservation Act," to legislatively protect PEGs from the changes in regulation of the past few years, with the introduction of Internet Protocol Television service.

5. Adjourn

Hynes moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Wakeman seconded.

Approval was unanimous.

Motion passed; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Pua Ford, WGATV coordinator

Next scheduled meetings:

Monday, November 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m.

**PROGRAMS BY WGATV AND AMITY SENT TO TOWN LIBRARY
2009-2010 to date (10/26/09)**

PROGRAM	DATE	hour	minutes	COMMENTS
Beecher Building Cmte #7	07/10/09	2	41	
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)	07/13/09	0	41	
Inland Wetlands Agency (IWA)	07/15/09	3	7	
Selectmen	07/15/09	2	39	at Firehouse
Finance	07/16/09	0	38	Incomplete; live
Town Plan & Zoning	07/21/09	3	7	
Woodbridge Board of Ed (WBOE)	07/21/09	0	45	incomplete
Beecher Building Cmte #8	07/23/09	0	11	
Economic Development (EDC)	07/23/09	1	58	
Selectmen	08/05/09	2	54	at Firehouse
Beecher Building Cmte #9	08/06/09	1	57	
Amity Board of Ed (ABOE)	08/10/09	2	21	<i>Amity production</i>
Beecher Building Cmte	08/20/09	1	42	
Clean Energy	08/25/09	1	33	
Woodbridge BOE	08/31/09	0	55	
Tri-Town Resolution	09/02/09	0	33	<i>Not to library</i>
TPZ	09/08/09	2	26	
Selectmen	09/09/09	2	51	at Country Club
Beecher Building Cmte #10	09/10/09	1	37	
ABOE	09/14/09	1	25	<i>Amity production</i>
EDC	09/15/09	1	13	
IWA	09/16/09	1	12	
Finance	09/17/09	0	55	live
GATCom	09/21/09	0	58	
Woodbridge BOE	09/21/09	2	20	
TPZ	10/05/09	1	45	
Selectmen	10/14/09	1	59	Live; incomplete
Finance	10/15/09	0	52	live
Woodbridge BOE	10/19/09	1	50	
IWA	10/21/09	1	50	
Beecher Building Cmte #12	10/21/09	0	20	Unmanned cam

Did not record meetings of Police, Fire, Human Services, Conservation, CUPOP, Library, ZBA (Sept.), Beecher Bldg Cmte (#11 – 9/30)