

GATCom regular meeting (Government Access Television Access Commission)

Minutes for 09/24/2019

Present: Theresa Bahner, Tobenna Nwangwu, Aldon Hynes (by telephone)

Absent: Mary Hill

Also present: Pua Ford (coordinator & clerk), Nancy Spagnolo

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting came to order at 7:25pm.

2. Election of Officers

Nomination of Bahner as Chair (Nwangwu/2d Hynes).

Motion to close nominations (Nwangwu/2d Hynes).

Vote to approve unanimous.

Motion approved.

Vote elect Bahner as Chair: Nwangwu and Hynes in favor; Bahner abstained.

Nomination of Nwangwu as Vice-Chair (Bahner/2d Hynes).

Motion to close nominations (Bahner/2d Hynes).

Vote to approve unanimous.

Motion approved.

Vote elect Bahner as Vice-Chair: Bahner and Hynes in favor; Nwangwu abstained.

Although ordinances refer to a second officer as “Secretary,” it was acknowledged that the office actually functions as a vice-chair.

3. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2019 and May 28, 2019 (Bahner/Nwangwu)

Discussion: All commission member currently attending were present at the March meeting.

Hynes and Bahner were present at the May meeting.

Vote to approve unanimous.

Motion approved.

4. **Coordinator Reports:** Reports had been emailed before the meeting. Ford pointed out particularly low activity this summer. We did not take on interns since last summer because Ford has not had time to give to them. Budget numbers for the past 4 years (approved and actual spending) were also sent out.

5. Business

This commission must approve a budget proposal for 2020-2021 by January 1, 2020. It would be better to approve it by the November meeting, so that a meeting on December 10, 2019 will not be needed. A list of 2020 meeting dates must also be approved by January 1.

It is known that all departments will be asked to reduce their budgets in order to reduce taxes. Those present discussed the best way to proceed. Ford would like to reduce her duties as coordinator and turn those over to someone who can eventually take over the job. Spagnolo is interested in more work, but is also still looking for a full-time job. Equipment needs are covered for the time being.

A vision for the future of the department is for a bigger team of per diem people to learn production and cover meetings with more independence than our high school students can provide. An item in the town print newsletter to invite recent retirees and at-home parents to join the team will be drafted.

6. *Motion to adjourn at 8:18pm (Nwangwu/2d Hynes)*
Approval unanimous; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Pua Ford

Next scheduled meetings:

Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Tuesday, November 28, 2019
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Note: *The November date is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.
The December date is scheduled in case a budget proposal needs
approval. The January date normally coincides with budget
presentations before the joint Boards of Selectmen & Finance.*