

Belmont Cable Access Committee (BAC)
Minutes 4/27/04
7:30 p.m., BCTV Studio

Present

CAC: John Verrilli, Todd Bloniarz, Pam Curtis, Maryann Scali, Fred Skoler
Comcast: Mark Ventola

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by CAC chair, John Verrilli at 7:38 p.m.

Review of Minutes of 3/16/04

The minutes were accepted as written.

Report by CAC Chair

John Verrilli reported that he asked Joyce Munroe about the status of the last 10,000.00 payment from Comcast to the Board of Selectmen. Joyce told him that she had lost the check and that a new one had been issued by Comcast. There is approximately 33,000.00 in the account now. About one half of this will go to pay consultant Rika Welch for phase II of the Media Center Task Force project.

Issues from the Community/Complaints/Concerns/Coverage

John reported that the signal was better and that the quality of the shows was also improved since the last report. Mark stated that the calendar should be updated every day. Fred asked about getting a show made by kids for kids (“Do It Your Damn Self”) on the air. John suggested airing the recent National History Day videos.

Studio Operations

Mark reported that four candidates for town wide offices had taped political spots and that one committee (the committee promoting the new fire stations) also had made one. Election coverage was generally thought to be good.

The new equipment for the studio has been set up, including the new cameras and decks. The committee discussed what to do with the old equipment. The consensus was to keep it for now.

Two people have expressed interest in the spring producer workshop. It was noted that there was no press release announcing the workshop, so not many people may know about it.

The committee discussed how BCTV might recognize (at the senior awards ceremony) a graduating senior or seniors for work done at BCTV.

Status of Media Center Task Force

Todd gave the report. The next meeting of the MC Task Force will be on May 10, 2004. Phase I of the project consisted of running the various focus group workshops. This took

place in January and is complete. The committee is ready to start Phase II, pending approval by the Board of Selectmen. Phase II will consist of two main tasks:

1. Getting a Board of Conveners which will meet to appoint a Board of Directors to oversee the new Media Center. The Board of Directors will be responsible for hiring an executive director for the Media Center.
2. Finding a new home for Channel 8, since there is a strong possibility that it will have to move out of Belmont High School in the next couple of years. The current space at BHS is also probably not adequate for a full-fledged Media Center. The old Electric Light Building is considered to be a possibility.

May Meeting

The date of the May meeting was moved to Tuesday, May 25, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Curtis