

Minutes for the SAPA TV Board of Directors' Meeting May 15, 2019 at the HDEC Conference Room, River Valley Technical Center

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by president Marita Johnson. Present were Jared Gunnell, Bob Topolski, Steve Sisko, Bryce Honeywell, Rebecca Tucker. Absent were Mark Richardson, Mark Blanchard, and John Arrison.
- II. The agenda was approved as presented.
- III. Public Comment: A. Question: What will happen if the FCC FNRPM new policy happens? B. SAPA showed "marathon" of Apple Blossom Cotillions from the year 2000 through 2019. C. SAPA was asked to video the Blessing of Bikers at the Baptist church on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- IV. Minutes for the previous meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> was reviewed and approved.
- V. Director's Report (attached): Per quarter SAPA receives \$38,326 from Comcast and \$15,866 from VTel.
- VI. FCC FNRPM/Comcast Update; Cable Companies must give money to towns or to public access stations in towns where they are billing customers according to Cable Act of 1982. Vermont law says money must go to public access channels. Towns that don't have Public Access TV receive moneys, but where it goes is unclear. The Comcast vs. State of Vermont issue is still going on; our contract will stay as is until that issue is settled. Jared proposed the SAPA Board give \$1000 toward support of the Vermont Access Network (VAN) Action Circle. Bryce moved we do; Steve seconded and the vote was affirmative.
- VII. The proposed budget was reviewed and discussed. Jared wants to meet with a person from Brattleboro to discuss some joint expenses for things that might be shared, i.e. group insurance. Jared presented several ideas about how we might cut expenses if our income is cut by the FCC issue. One idea would be to tell towns we need money for covering meetings of school and Select Boards. Bob Topolski moved to accept the budget as proposed, Rebecca seconded and the vote was in the affirmative.
- VIII. Underwriting policies need to be written up. Could we find a person to go out and sell underwriting? This person might visit businesses to see if they want to underwrite and get 30% of what those entities pay for the underwriting. Jared presented several options to offer to towns or non-profits in regard to underwriting shows and get a mention on-screen.
- IX. SAPA Goals Update will be gone over at the next board meeting
- X. Talk of the 20th Annual Meeting proposed a short business meeting and a presentation, perhaps a documentary, and no awards ceremony. The proposed date is October 10<sup>th</sup> perhaps at the High School.
- XI. Next SAPA Board Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2019.
- XII. Steve Sysko moved we adjourn, and Bryce Honeywell seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Rebecca Tucker, Secretary  
**SAPA TV Directors Report - January/February 2019**

It is a new year at SAPA TV and the first two months have been a busy few for the SAPA TV staff and volunteers.

### **SAPA TV Channels Streaming**

After a few technical glitches SAPA TV is now officially streaming online. Community members can now watch both channels live on the SAPA TV website as well as on over the top providers Roku and Apple TV using the Cablecast. SAPA TV plans on promoting and marketing these services in the coming week once we have worked out all of the little bugs.

### **VAN Legislature Day**

I was able to attend the Vermont Access Network legislative day. Several Public Access executive directors met at the state house to meet with our local representatives to discuss the future of Public Access Television. Members from the Vermont Access Network ( VAN state entity) and Alliance for Community Media (ACM national entity) attended committees with lawmakers to discuss possible changes to public access funding. We also held a meeting with the Mike Wassenaar, President of ACM to discuss the different threats the public access television community is face. After the meeting a Resolution recognizing public access television was read on the floor of the state house. All the Access Directors present were asked to stand and be recognized.

### **Audio Equipment Purchases**

SAPA TV has been in the process of purchasing new audio equipment for the SAPA TV studio. In an effort to be able to better serve local musicians SAPA TV has purchased new microphones, speakers and other equipment that is tailored towards capturing music performances. The SAPA TV staff is getting acquainted with the new equipment and hope to start bringing local musicians into studio on a regular basis.

### **Community Participation**

Volunteers and community members are keeping the SAPA TV staff busy. We have seen a steady stream of equipment checkouts over the last few months. There has been such a demand that SAPA TV purchased an additional field camera to help provide for the demand. We hope to see the continuing use of this equipment from local community members.

### **Puggy's Corner Marathon**

It is that time of year again. Puggy Lamphere has been in the studio regularly in the months of January and February. Puggy interviewed all candidates for the Springfield Board of Selectman and School board as well as town and school administrators about their upcoming budgets. He produced seven shows in the months of January and February. We truly appreciate the time Puggy gives in helping keep the community informed of local happenings.