

Minutes for the SAPA TV Board of Directors' Meeting March 14, 2019 at the HDEC Conference Room, River Valley Technical Center

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mark Richardson, Jared Gunnell, John Arrison, Steve Sysco, Bryce Honeywell, Marita Johnson, Rebecca Tucker, Mark Blanchard.
2. There were no additions or modification to the Agenda.
3. Public comments: The Weathersfield Town Meeting was well attended, and also watched. Chester's was hard to hear from the audience. There were two cameras at Springfield that could be switched from the public representative who was speaking and the board. There were several news articles in local papers about the proposed changes in required channel arrangements with Cable providers and public Access stations. (Springfield Reporter, Valley News, Claremont Eagle Times) It was mentioned that Youtube productions cannot be put on SAPA without permission.
4. The minutes of January 10, 2019 were reviewed and approved after motion by Mark Blanchard and seconded by John Arrison.
5. Director's Report (attached) There was some discussion about streaming devices via Roku and Apple TV.
6. Marketing and underwriting discussion took place. We need consultation on how to do public relations and encourage underwriting by non-profits and others who use our facilities. A woman from Concord NH charges \$100 per hour, another charges \$174, another marketing entity mention is "Constant Contact" for email marketing. It was pointed out we would not be "fund raising, but receiving monetary support to replace possible 30 - 50% losses in income, should the new proposal go through. There was more discussion of getting local help, such as a \$50 a week person to seek out underwriting, help from Springfield on the Move and Chamber of Commerce, or maybe work with other public access stations.
7. Budget discussion: We read through the proposed budget for the next fiscal year 2019 – 2020, which shows \$20,000 more proposed spending than income. Jared will finalize the budget and voting on it will be at the May Meeting.
8. FCC FNRPM/ Comcast update. VAN is in arbitration with Comcast There is now a lawsuit going on with the state concerning channel guides. This is not the same issue as the other (Federal) issues versus the cable provider(s). We want to have channel guide, high definition channels or cable drops. (Cable Act of 1987)
9. Next Board meeting will be May 9, 2019. On the agenda will be the budget, an update on the Comcast ruling, Jared's goals for the future, the annual meeting. There will be no Board meeting in June unless something new comes up. The SAPA annual meeting will be in October.
10. John Arrison moved we adjourn, Mark Blanchard seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca W. Tucker, Secretary, April 1, 2019

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.