



Administrative

- Staffing: With the addition of Elia Lloyd to the staff, we are now just about at 3 FTE (Rebekah & me at 40 hrs. / week; part-timers Peter & Elia combining for another 40 hours / week). This is as good of a staffing level as we have ever had. Still, if there were enough resources, we would benefit from increasing the level even more.
- VAN Advocacy / State Funding / Legislative Work: We received the \$45K State appropriation. This is the 3rd year of “bridge funding”, while a new source of funding is hopefully established, as an alternative to the traditional cable funding. The work happening right now is legislator outreach, ahead of the upcoming session, to make sure they are all aware of two things: 1) a request from VAN for another \$1m appropriation in the FY2025 budget, and 2) legislation that will be presented to create a “Community Media Public Benefit Fund” from a new funding structure involving pole attachment fees. There is a lot of support for both of these requests conceptually, as evidenced by the feedback from legislators as well as the recent endorsement of well over 100 organizations throughout the State.
- Cable Funding: Our recent quarterly payments from Comcast and VTel are in line with the trend we have seen taking shape over the last couple of years: the cable funding continues to slowly decline.
- Low Power FM: The FCC will have a filing window open from December 6-13 for applications for new 100-watt Low Power FM (LPFM) radio licenses. There have been a few such windows over the past quarter Century, and this may be the last. LPFM licenses are open to non profit organizations who meet certain eligibility criteria. If there is interest in our area, we – as an established community-based media organization – would seem to be best suited to file the application. Based on my own anecdotal evidence, I do feel there would be interest, but just how much is hard to say. We should do a survey – and quickly. At this stage, there is no obligation for an applicant to commit to anything. If an application is approved, we would have approx. 6 months to decide whether or not to move forward. It is worth at least conducting a survey and then deciding by December 1st whether or not to move forward.

Production

- School Programming: As some may have heard, Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt wrote a children’s book – “The Loon & the Eagle”. She was recently invited to give a presentation about the book to the kindergarten class at Reading Elementary School. Bob recorded it to share with us. I am putting that together and will have the program out there this coming week. So thank you Lisa & Bob! Another Board member, Zachary, has been provided new programming as well. His Audio-Video Production class at River Valley Technical Center has helped Springfield High School re-launch its student news show, Green Horn Live, which he is sharing with us. We have been running a new show featuring Ludlow Elementary School’s Halloween celebration (see more about that below). And finally, the students at Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) next door have been using our services to create several programs showcasing public officials and others in the community.

- Staff Productions: Rebekah produced a short video with scenes from opening day at Okemo this past week. Peter and Rebekah teamed up to produce a fun short video chronicling Ludlow's "Trunk or Treat" Halloween celebration.
- Studio Productions: In recent weeks, there have been a small handful of studio productions: Paula VanGuilder (Talk with Paula), Linda Thomson (presentation on History of Israel, Judaism, & Islam), and FEMA officials (Update on Flood Recovery) have recorded programs.

Community Engagement

- Reading Elementary School: Bob & Lisa's work in the kindergarten class helped to establish a connection in the school. I would like to build on this, as we continue to do outreach in Reading.
- FOLA Film Festival Follow Up: I have not heard anything definitive yet as far as the "300 Miles Melting" screening, but I did have a conversation with staff at VT Natural Resources Council (VNRC) about it, who expressed interest in participating. They hosted a forum at the Ludlow Town Hall last week about flood resiliency & climate change. I provided equipment to them so they could record it and in doing so, we talked about other possibilities for collaboration, including the film screening and the possibility of Ludlow being a host site for the annual "Wild & Scenic" film festival, which VNRC co-sponsors. They like the space and would like to use it as part of their effort to do more in this part of the State.
- Membership Drive: We have received some new membership contributions.
- Underwriting: We need to be gearing up for 2024. This was a brief topic of discussion during the recent Community Engagement committee's meeting. We have one-pager handouts from last year to help promote it.
- New Postcards + Sign: We have new "Where to Watch" postcards, which can be handed out to those interested and kept in camera bags. There is also a stack of them on our display at Fletcher Memorial Library. We also printed one foam core small sign with our logo, for such displays.
- Survey: Does the community want a Low Power FM radio station (for local news, music, podcasts, etc.)? We need to find that out.

Other Fundraising

- Anthony Marro Trust request: I submitted a grant request to this local fund last week, for the build out of our last phase of construction. We should hear by December. In 2018, when we last applied, we received \$5,000.
- "Building Communities" grant request: Our grant application for \$20,000 was not approved. The feedback was that the grant review committee felt our project was perhaps not critical enough – they want to fund mission critical projects that have a lifespan of 20 or so years. We did receive a \$25,000 grant from them (State of VT Division of Buildings & General Services) in 2018.
- Town Appropriation requests: So far, I have sent in FY2025 requests to the Towns of Ludlow & Cavendish. I still need to get letters in to Plymouth, Mount Holly, & Andover.

Equipment / Buildings & Grounds

- New Laptop: Our old (2013) Mac Book Pro is still our go-to laptop for most things. It's in need of replacement. The cost of a new one with the specs we need is somewhere around \$2,200. It's a budgeted expense – the 1st of 2 computers planned for this budget year.
- Ludlow Auditorium Project: Regarding the fixes & finishing up the AV project in the Town Hall auditorium, I submitted a proposal to Municipal Manager Brendan McNamara, on behalf of FOLA & us.

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