

Okemo Valley TV

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 5:30PM

Okemo Valley TV, 37C Main St., Ludlow, VT and Zoom

Minutes

Present: John Cama, Sharon Huntley, Pat Moore, Wendell Perkins, Noah Schmidt, George O. Thomson, Patrick Cody, Executive Director, Okemo Valley TV

Absent:, Susan Haefner, Zachery McNaughton, Newt Rose

I. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Noah at 5:36 pm.

II. Review Agenda and Consider any Adjustments - None

III. Communications/Public Comments – We received a letter of resignation from Susan Haefner. George moved to accept the resignation. Pat provided a second and the motion was passed unanimously with regret.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Noah made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2022 meeting. Sharon second the motion which was passed unanimously.

The minutes of the January 13 meeting were received today and were not approved to give the board a chance to review. It will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

V. Director Report : Collaboration with WCTV– Patrick provided his report electronically to the board prior to the meeting. He highlighted a few items as indicated below. His full report is available on the website.

He talked about a potential proposal from Woodstock Community TV for some type of collaboration. One of our strategic goals for years has been to collaborate for economy, efficiently and pooling resources etc. With advances in technology this is now really possible.

Patrick said he worked collaboratively with Jenifer, a board member from the WCTV station, to write a grant proposal through the VT Arts Council. We were encouraged to apply so they felt it was a good possibility for some funding. This is the first collaborative activity that we have been engaged in.

Currently the WCTV has no staff and they are not operating. Patrick feels they might want to contract with us to provide staffing services for them. We need specifics before we act on this. They are meeting tonight and then will let us know what their needs are. Their cable franchise revenue is about half of ours or \$100,000. 65% of our budget is personnel so if they are looking to contract with us and we used the same formula that would be 65% of their budget or

@ \$65,000. Obviously, we would need to hire additional staff. Since we were looking to hire a part time production staff person, perhaps we can now hire a full-time person and share resources.

We have the possibility of two interns coming to work at the station this summer - one from Bennington College and one from Champlain college. They reached out to us having talked independently with two board members which is exciting. One of the possible interns is finishing her freshmen year. The other one is in his sophomore year.

A discussion continued on the possibilities of a partnership possibilities although we need specifics of what WCTV is interested in so we can make a proposal. We need to know what their needs are and what they want of us. If additional hiring is needed, Patrick would want them to participate in hiring. Once we hear back from their board as to what they want, we can have an informed discussion at the next board meeting.

They do have some funds to support a collaboration as they are getting their franchise fees and have no expenses for personnel at the present time.

Since timing is of the essence, we may need to have a special meeting once we know what they are looking for.

There was a discussion on updating the plans that were drawn up in 2011.

There was further discussion on finishing the build out of the station and the possibility that we may need to look at financing options.

VI. Finance Committee Update: FY 2023 Budget Work, Investment Options –

There committee met and started working on a budget for next year. The draft proposed budget includes collaborative efforts with WCTV including revenue and costs for shared staffing. This is all very tentative until we hear from them and learn what it is they would like us to provide.

Wendell and Patrick met with a representative of the Heritage Bank and they provided some options for us to consider. Wendell presented and discussed the three options providing pros and cons. At the moment, since we were only considering investing \$10,000 (\$20,000 of what we have in reserve is for the building fund), we will wait until we are further along with the building plans.

Patrick discussed the need for updated architectural plans. He has talked with Claudio Veliz about some updates to the plans we already have, but the board wanted to consider other options and wait before making any commitments to him. Several folks will talk with architects they know and try and get some information sharing what has been done and what we want to do.

VII. Financial/ Schedule Next Committee Meetings: Building and Grounds, Nominating and Elections, Community Engagement

We need to ask Newt to call a meeting of the Nominations and Elections Committee to get the word out that there are openings on the board. Both Noah and Wendell are up for reelection. There was some discussion about appointing Wendell to fill the term vacated by Susan. We need to examine the By-laws to see if that makes sense or if he should run for election.

VIII. Other Business – There was no other business.

IX. Confirm Next Meeting Date(s) – The date of the next meeting was set for May 11 at 5:30 at the station.

June 23 is the Annual Meeting.

X. Adjourn

Noah made a motion to adjourn at 6:35. The motion was seconded by Sharon and so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

George O Thomson
Secretary