

Okemo Valley TV

Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 5:30 PM

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

Minutes

Present: Noah Schmidt, Newton Rose, Robert Greenawalt, Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt, Pat Moore, George O. Thomson, Patrick Cody, Executive Director, Okemo Valley TV

Zoom: Wendell Perkins, Zachary McNaughton

Absent: John Cama

Guests:

I. Call Meeting to Order / Review Agenda. Noah called the regular meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

II. Communications/Public Comments. There were no public comments.

III. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes. Lisa made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 with a few minor changes. Bob seconded the motion which was approved.

IV. Director's Report SAPA MOU/ Upgrades/ Grant Writing (10 minutes). Patrick highlighted various key points. The full report will be sent to the board electronically in the near future. There has been an increase in use and production of the studio which is almost back to pre-COVID days. June is a bit busier month due to graduations coverages and the annual meeting. We do need to need to plan for the annual meeting and elections.

There is no news on the VTel certificate of public good case. We do expect there will be a ruling soon.

Comcast ran fiber optic cable and we anticipate the HD channels will be coming soon. We have the new contract which we have been anticipating.

The new contract does not include Reading because Comcast could not assign it to our area. Patrick wrote a MOU with SAPA. Although the new Executive Director is in favor as is the board, the board asked to have the MOU reviewed by a professional. SAPA will need to amend their contract to add Reading and then they will get paid and we can subsequently bill as a contractor.

Equipment upgrade...finally purchased a new sever at a very good price but it has yet to be installed and will take at least a half a day to do this.

The website upgrade still in its infancy.

As we sat in the studio during a heavy rain storm, it was very obvious that the studio has soundproofing issues which we will need to address at some time.

Patrick talked about the proposed budget, specifically two items that have been added. For the next fiscal year, we are looking to outsource marketing, media work and fundraising. Patrick has someone who is interested in grant writing for us. There is no revenue listed to offset this as we have no idea what that might be.

There is a new biking chapter in Ludlow which is part of Ludlow Area Sports Trails Association (LAST). They have just built first trail in the “back 40” behind the school. They hope soon to be an official non-profit very soon. They would like to tap into the sign that we have shared with BRGN. Patrick indicated he has no problem with it but want to have a say in where it is placed. We own the sign with the BRGN. We also talked about the potential of parking issues as they expect to use “our” parking lot. We will need to talk about stewardship with them, specifically security and trash concerns.

There was a lengthy discussion on the sign. LAST understands we will need to have a discussion about all of this. They will have to go through the planning office to get it approved because we have the max height allowed. Potentially it could hang on the side...same size as ours but vertical. In a year if they are happy, perhaps there can be a whole new sign and can aesthetically pleasing. Some members of the board expressed displeasure with having their sign hang off our sign. The board suggests they put a temporary sign on the bottom of the sign for one season with no charge and then we can discuss something more permanent. Overall, the board is supportive. support the organization.

Patrick has someone he thinks is worth pursuing as a grant writer and he could bring her before the board to discuss our needs if appropriate. Wendell has another contact for a possible grant writer whom he will contact and set up a phone call with Patrick to explore her interest. We can look at this and make a decision after the budget gets approved.

V. Financial Update: FY23 Budget Report/FY24 Budget Review: (30 minutes) We have received our first statement from Fidelity. The new account with \$60,000 has earned \$232 in interest in the first month. The proposed budget includes cost of living allowance (5%) for all employees. We plan to use money underspent last year and use it to offset a budget deficit for the projected FY 24 budget to support the grant writer. Patrick went through the budget and projections as prepared by the finance committee. There was a discussion on Production services and we recognized the need to be careful about what we give away and what we charge for.

Patrick talked about the money appropriation which is in the current proposed VT state budget. If the budget is approved, VAN will need to figure out a way to equitably distribute the money. We should know sometime this summer how much money this will be. There was a discussion on increasing the amount of money allowed for mileage and Patrick’s insurance and the need for him to take advantage of it.

VI. De-briefing of Strategic Planning Kick-Off (15 minutes) -Tabled. Newt will send out a draft of mission statement to everyone based on the conversation we had last month. This will appear on the agenda for July.

VII. Annual Meeting Planning (15 minutes) Board elections. The Nominating and Election Committee met with Patrick. They decided the procedures for the election will be same as last year completed using Survey Monkey electronically as well as an opportunity to vote during the annual meeting. Voting will open for a pre-determined amount of time. Patrick said the board needs to update the by-laws... at least the section on elections. The committee recommends we keep the number of board members to nine. There are two terms open as Pat and John both elected not to run again and only one candidate. It was decided that we would hold the meeting inside this year at 6 pm on Tuesday. Lisa has a contact that she will reach out to see if she is interested in being on the board.

Patrick suggested we start the meeting with an informal open house before the meeting and then segue into producer awards as we have done in the past.

George will make arrangements for the food by ordering sandwich makings from Singletons which will include regular bread, gluten free bread, a variety of meats, turkey, lettuce and tomatoes and a vegetable platter. He will also get chips condiments and drinks. Patrick indicated that they had plates, napkins, cups, plastic cutlery.

VIII. Other Business - Other Committee Updates (15 Minutes) – Nothing discussed

IX. Confirm Next Meeting Date(s). The next regular meeting will be held on July 20, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

X. Adjourn. Newt made a motion to adjourn. Lisa provided a second and the meeting was adjourned at 7:11.

Respectfully submitted,

George O. Thomson, Secretary