

July 31, 2019 minutes – PAAC meeting

Meeting -- Date, Time, Location: PEG Access Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting, July 31, 2019, 7:00 p.m., MMN Studio, CCHS, 500 Walden Street, Concord. **Next meetings:** August 21, September 25, October 30, November 20, and December 18; all at 7:15 p.m., MMN Studio.

Present: Scott Hopkinson (Chair), Vince Carlson, Gene Chang, Jane Hotchkiss, Wally Johnston, and Karlen Reed. **Absent:** Peggy Wargelin, and Ruth Lauer. Also present: Erin Stevens (PICM) and Sam Krueger, Interim Station Manager. Recorded by MMN.

1. Call to Order – Mr. Hopkinson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Ms. Reed volunteered to be clerk pro tem.

2. Meetings and Minutes – The minutes for June 25 were approved as amended. The next meetings will be held August 21, September 25, October 30, November 20, and December 18, all beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the MMN Studio, CCHS, 500 Walden Street, Concord.

3. Budget Subcommittee update – Mr. Carlson, who chairs the budget subcommittee with Mr. Hopkinson and Ms. Wargelin, will work with Mr. Hopkinson to set up a time and post an agenda for the next budget subcommittee meeting. Ms. Stevens will provide the subcommittee with the latest Comcast quarterly PEG funding report prior to that meeting. Ms. Reed will provide Mr. Carlson with additional historical financial data. Mr. Hopkinson will invite our Comcast representative to the PAAC's October meeting. Ms. Reed will provide Mr. Hopkinson with a copy of last year's Comcast questions as prep for the October meeting.

4. MMN staffing update – The former MMN station manager, Anya Zulawnik, is no longer working with the Town and Sam Krueger was named Interim Station Manager. Ms. Stevens is seeking to hire 2 replacement videographers and will then conduct a search for a new station manager.

5. MMN update - Mark Pauley, the Media Technician at MMN, has been focusing on improving the video storage and editing equipment. Mr. Hopkinson asked for an updated equipment inventory to be done. MMN is testing equipment to live stream its programs directly through YouTube (as is done now in Carlisle), in addition to uploading later a recorded version. MMN has upgraded its on-line bulletin boards. Mr. Krueger listed some new programs being recorded, including programs based around Thoreau, Twain, and the Concord Police Academy. MMN will explore making the online content more searchable.

6. PEG / Comcast survey review – The PAAC expressed their appreciation to Ms. Stevens for pulling together the draft survey report for the meeting, and Ms. Stevens noted that some editing is needed before its presentation to the Select Board. As part of the ensuing discussion, Ms. Reed suggested the PAAC consider adding its own section with its observations and recommendations to the Select Board. She offered to have a draft done by the September 25 meeting and suggested that committee members could send her their edits and observations by Friday September 13. Mr. Hopkinson agreed and asked Ms. Reed to draft a separate PAAC section which clearly delineates the PAAC's views from the MMN perspective. Mr. Carlson suggested the PAAC examine additional data sources from MMN and elsewhere. Mr. Hopkinson led a discussion, and the PAAC agreed to recommend to MMN to provide additional data to the committee. Ms. Reed noted that the FCC will release its PEG funding order on August 1, which will contain a dispute resolution process if Comcast wants to revise Concord's current franchise agreement.

7. Liaison reports and public comments – Ms. Hotchkiss noted that the most recent Select Board meeting was not broadcast, though it was recorded and posted the next day. A faulty encoder malfunctioned and research is being done to either repair or replace the equipment, according to Ms. Stevens. Ms. Hotchkiss urged the PAAC to focus more on programming issues and suggested that the high school students could be surveyed on their views of MMN services. Ms. Stevens provided an overview of some of the high school's MMN services. Ms. Hotchkiss suggested that Mr. Hopkinson present the PAAC's 2019-2020 goals and recommendations from the PEG survey to the Select Board, and the PAAC expected that a November visit to the Select Board could work. Mr. Johnston reported that the Middle School Building Committee was touring several middle schools as part of its design process, and at least one middle school had a media center. Public comments: Consider the value of staff stability and appreciation. Review the impact of the Supreme Court's ruling on a PEG provider's editorial discretion, as discussed last meeting. Focus on the PEG survey recommendations. The MMN plays a critical role in preserving recordings of governmental proceedings.

Mr. Hopkinson adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by Karlen Reed, clerk pro tem.

Approved on August 21, 2019