

## **COMCAST OLD LYME ADVISORY COUNCIL Draft MINUTES June 30, 2009**

Time: 7:30 PM, Location: Salem Free Public Library.

Present: Ed Blaschik, Cathy Frank, Russ Gomes, Susan MacKinlay, Pam Munro, Robin Purcell, Peter Sielman (Chairman), John Bairos (Comcast), Lynn Perry (Comcast).

Absent: John Eichholz

### Discussion and Actions:

#### **1. Quorum Definition**

Questions were raised by several members as to what constitutes a quorum for Council actions. It was moved (Frank/Munro) that a quorum is 1 more than one half of the currently appointed members (for an even number of currently appointed members) and one half more than one half of an odd number of currently appointed members. The vote was 6 to 1 in favor of the motion. As of June 30<sup>th</sup> the currently appointed membership consists of those present at the meeting plus John Eichholz of Old Lyme for a total of 8. By the adopted measure a quorum equals 5.

#### **2. Grants**

In response to a request made by the First Selectman of Old Lyme for \$5,000 for hardware and software to facilitate public access in the town of Old Lyme, the Council discussed appropriate use of surplus funds and addressed the request through a policy motion and a dollar amount motion. The Council wished to reserve at least \$10,000 for operating expenses and shared ideas for possible uses, including a mailing, survey, brochures and/or bookmarks.

The policy motion (Purcell/Gomes): An amount, to be designated annually by the Council, shall be made available to subsidize capital and equipment costs related to producing and procuring public, educational and governmental programming, as well as scholarships and projects that encourage community access. The funds shall be made available in response to detailed requests by applicants within the Council Towns and shall be provided (except for scholarships) on a reimbursement basis. The motion was passed unanimously.

The dollar amount motion (Gomes/Frank): The amount designated for calendar year 2009 is set at not to exceed \$15,000. The motion was passed unanimously.

On a motion (Gomes/MacKinlay) the deadline for applications for the grants in 2009 is set as November 1, 2009. The motion was passed unanimously.

On questions related to the current administration of the Council, it was noted that Pam Munro is the Vice Chairman. Cathy Frank and Robin Purcell volunteered to take minutes and provide Council Clerk duties. It was noted that Council funds are not earning interest at present because the Council does not have an EIN number from the IRS. Cathy Frank offered to research the procedure for obtaining the necessary number.

### **3. Comcast Reports**

John Bairos was requested to provide current subscriber numbers in each of the towns in the Council area. John Bairos provided the requested evidence that Comcast had over-funded the Council by \$600 at the beginning of 2009. On a motion (Blaschik/Munro) the Council voted unanimously to refund the \$600.

John Bairos reported that Comcast had consummated a deal with the NFL, is providing "Red Sox On Demand" coverage and that ESPNU will be launched in July 2009.

Lynn Perry reported that the Old Lyme Public Access studio is being used very heavily.

### **4. Next meeting**

The next meeting was set for Thursday, October 1st at 7:30 PM at the Salem Free Public Library. A future meeting will be scheduled to take place in the Studio at Hale Ray High School in East Haddam. The meeting was adjourned (Frank) at 9:15 PM.