

Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

February 25, 2021 - Regular Meeting

Via WebEx

Minutes

The Statewide Video Advisory Council meeting was held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 and called to order at 8:00PM by Chair Merja Lehtinen.

In attendance were the following members: Merja Lehtinen, Alex Fraser, Michael Meinz, Gregory Davis, Alan Budofsky, Elaine Buchardt, Marco Iacoviello, Stephen Simonin, Peaches Quinn, Stewart Strelzer

Members Absent: Stephen Fuest, Russell Gomes, Wayne Church, Philip Markuszka

Providers: Esme Lombard (Altice)

The minutes from the October 28, 2020 meeting were approved. Motion made by Alan Budofsky and seconded by Marco Iacoviello. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Alan Budofsky gave the treasury report. Annual stipends have been received from Frontier, Comcast and Altice. The CTSVAC.ORG domain name was renewed for a cost of \$47.70. The annual hosting fee of \$229.71 was paid. The current balance is \$43,223.51.

Provider Reports:

Esme Lombard (Altice) reported that Altice has resolved all customer escalation issues submitted by the SVAC chair. Altice is in a coalition to support more than 180 black owned small businesses. Altice is part of the "Everybody Learns" initiative. Altice offers a special Internet package for low-income families. Altice has been installing fiber to the home in lower Fairfield County. For 2022 – 2023, Altice is planning to install fiber to the home in the NW corner of the state.

Committee Reports:

Technology:

- Stephen Simonin reported that, due to COVID migrations, there are many new residents in NW Connecticut that are putting a strain on the Internet capacity for residents and the schools. Some towns in NW Connecticut have been looking into doing their own fiber-to-the-home projects. The Governor has submitted a [legislative proposal](#) to improve Internet service. The proposal includes regulation changes which will make it less costly for providers to build Internet capacity to increase access to high-speed Internet for underserved areas.

Legal:

- Gregory Davis reported that he has been in contact with Nutmeg TV who managed the coalition of community access providers in 2020 which hired a lobbyist. There were bills in committee with substantial support in January 2020. COVID-19 exploded the entire investment and initiative for the 2020 session. The coalition has not recovered, but they are trying. Gregory has been in communication with them and has been advised to stand by.

Motion to adjourn by Alan Budofsky and seconded by Marco Iacoviello.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Meinz
Vice-Chair