

**MEETING MINUTES
DCAT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
February 27, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erika Mantz, Tom Merrick, Henry Smith, Craig Stevens, David Langley, Todd Ziemek, George Kachadorian, Paul Gasowski

EXCUSED:

UNEXCUSED: Carol Camp

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Tom Merrick called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
- II. AGENDA APPROVAL:** Approved with the movement of "Charging for Meeting Coverage" from New Business to Old Business.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - A.** January 23, 2007: Approved as submitted.
- IV. DCAT SUPERVISOR REPORT:** Craig reported trouble with the signal; the fixed school problem seems to have migrated to the town: fuzziness issues. When school goes to live or taped broadcast its signal is much clearer. Craig has contacted Comcast. Telex system has been ordered; this system is for people who have trouble hearing. There will be four available. Second issue is a request for speakers in the council chambers; that request was cut from Craig's budget request. Todd Selig has since told him to order the speakers as well as feedback eliminators; funds are coming from the council contingency fund. Everything should be installed within a few weeks. Craig will be losing a worker in the spring; he will be looking for a replacement. A second candidate's forum, sponsored by the Durham Taxpayers Association, will be broadcast next Wednesday, March 7. Todd said groups that want to use the council chambers for something like a candidates forum need to pay DCAT employees from set up to tear down, \$50 per hour. Craig will be talking with Paul as the second forum will cut into a School Board meeting. Craig spoke with Bryan Christiansen at Comcast to review what is on file in the event that the town/school tries to apply for a second channel. When we get to the schedule time, Craig said he wants to talk about pulling some of the time back.
- V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF MEMBERS:** Todd: Covered Hillary Clinton when she was at Concord High School; he talked with someone from the Concord public access station who was recording for a show. Bedford policy says no pre-produced content of any kind, but if you live in Bedford and want to film a political candidate, you can run it but only with 24 signatures from community members. Henry: Concord allows everything: paid political ads/content, video on a separate channel; then there are government and education channels. Erika: Did not hear back from Manchester in time for the meeting. Tom: Received a call from resident John Carroll concerned about the Durham Taxpayers Association sponsoring a forum because they plan to endorse specific candidates. Asked Craig about having disclaimers; there was not one at the DBA sponsored forum. We will not require unless endorsements are made on camera. Instead of saying Produced by DCAT at the end, the producer should be the sponsoring agency, with technical support from DCAT.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Resident Ed Valena: Several years ago there was a forum by Citizen Exchange and one by DBA; he does not think anyone should be charged. Should be made clear to organizer that there should be a level playing ground. Member of the Durham Land Protection group; newsletter will be put out within the next month talking about the seven

properties that have been protected – Mill Pond, buffalo farm, etc. Photos were taken of all the sites and he asked that they be used as bulletin board slide photos. Craig took the disc and will review them for running. Ed also asked for an occasional slide about what the slides represent and to credit the photographer.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A.** DCAT-GC Membership Opportunities: (1 now, three terms expiring); Dave and George are up for reappointment as well as those with yearly expiring terms (Erika and Paul)
- B.** Oyster River Carbon Challenge: Tom suggested videotaping a presentation by the speakers
- C.** Charging for meeting coverage (taxpayers...): Paul suggested the cost should be in the DCAT budget and there should be just one forum; all questions would come from the audience (that's how the school department does it). Tom said that the groups should get a policy after Jan. 1. Paul said that the school sets its date about a year in advance.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A.** Weekly schedule: Town Manager Todd Selig asked Craig to review the weekly schedule, asking in particular why residents can't see more town meeting coverage on Fridays and Saturdays because it is difficult to find time for extras like the candidate forums. Paul agreed to replay the forums on all days until after the election. Erika suggested looking at showing programs online. Paul: it is important to continue cultivating Thursday and Saturday nights as school programming. Tom suggested having a DVD copy of each meeting available for loan through the town office. Paul and Craig will work out a temporary schedule to accommodate the election cycle.
 - 1.** Erika moved and Tom seconded that the DCAT Governance Committee remain committed to maintaining primetime slots for education and public programming. Passed unanimously.
 - 2.** Tom moves and Dave seconded that the DCAT Governance Committee support the provision of a copy of DCAT originated programs for public loan. Passed unanimously.
- B.** Candidate forum: Tom said he thinks DCAT should broadcast as many as possible but with a disclaimer. Todd will research the legal/FCC angle around equal time, etc.
- C.** Hearing Assist for Town Council chambers: covered in Craig's report.

IX. **NEXT MEETINGS:** March 27, April 24, May 22

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** 9:18 p.m.

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