

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Thursday, January 11, 2018

ATTENTION! New Facebook page for Cable Television Advisory Council - *LitchfieldCTAC*

The regular meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council of Litchfield was held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library, South St., Litchfield, CT. A quorum was present: Chairman Stephen Simonin, Denise Russ, Gary Lafferty, Thomas Lambert, Watertown; John Angevine, Warren; Lucille Paige, Torrington; David Rosaler, Goshen. Absent: Andy MacDavid, Cornwall. , Jeff Dunn, Thomaston, Gary Bernier, Watertown.

Also present: Laura Jordan, Cablevision/Altice. Representing the public: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Simonin 6:32 p.m.

In a motion made by Denise Russ, seconded by John Angevine, it was **voted** to approve the agenda as submitted. Voted unanimous.

In a motion made by Lucille Paige, seconded by Stephen Simonin, it was **voted** to nominate Gary Lafferty, Watertown, as Treasurer. Hearing no further nominations, Gary Lafferty, was voted Treasurer. Voted unanimously.

The current balance in the checking account is \$129.18 **In a motion** made by Denise, Russ, seconded by Thomas Lambert, the report of the Treasury was approved as received. **Voted** unanimous.

Chairman Simonin began the discussion on the shocking news that STARZ was taken off the air, away from subscribers availability – with no notice beforehand. Gary Lafferty reported on the numerous calls he received from his constituents regarding this action by ALTICE, Inc. Chairman Simonin stated that Millennials don't want "forced" TV channel availability. Thomas Lambert also reported on the complaints he's received from subscribers..."people don't want to watch old cowboy movies from way back". Chairman Simonin stated that the younger generation hardly watch "TV", but rather rely on their PC screens and internet. This was the general consensus from around the table

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Chairman Stephen Simonin spoke briefly on “Net Neutrality”. This information to all subscribers can easily be found on the Facebook page, ***LitchfieldCTAC***. Chairman Simonin updates this site with all new information and updates for subscribers. A skit by Chairman of the FCC was shown with information regarding the increased speed of internet streaming. He felt strongly that this “skit” by the FCC was insulting to the intelligence of the Cable viewer.

Denise Russ, Watertown, reported on complaints she’s received from customer that there are too many “reality shows”; internet speed was very slow; Laura Jordan, ALTICE, Inc. representative, stated that a call to Optimum will give subscribers information on how to conduct an “internet speed” test on their PC.

David Rosaler expressed the calls he’s received from subscribers in Goshen that the “Customer Service” now available from ALTICE, Inc. has greatly deteriorated. The customer service people are less informed about Optimum and resulting in less satisfaction/poor information to the subscriber. This is a quantum leap in the wrong direction for ALTICE, Inc.

Chairman Simonin explained his experience with the loss of Wi-Fi, loss of internet on his family’s service and the difficulty he experienced in attempting to get it restored from Optimum.

Thomas Lambert expressed this loss of good customer service, yanking of STARZ without prior knowledge to the customers comes right on the heels of the loss of channel WFSB back in 2017, wherein no customers were credited from this loss of viewership. He stated Optimum has readily increased their prices to subscribers, and adopted this “you’ll take what we give you” from Optimum.

CORRESPONDENCE: Lucille Paige, Secretary, reported that a card of condolences was sent to the Diane Knox family upon her recent passing. Chairman Simonon highlighted the good work and dedication she brought to the CTAC over her years of tenure and the due diligence she gave serving as Selectman for the town of Litchfield.

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Secretary Paige also reported receiving letters from the Watertown Town Council apprising the Council that Thomas Lambert has been re-appointed to serve another term on CTAC. Another letter received announced the appointment of Gary Bernier to CTAC. Denise Russ and Gary Lafferty still remain CTAC members.

In a motion made by Thomas Lambert, seconded by Gary Lafferty, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of the CTAC meeting of 9/14/2017 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

A discussion took place on the annual stipend received by CTAC of Litchfield, in the amount of \$2,000. In addition, this year an additional stipend will be received by CTAC Litchfield in the amount of \$10,000 to be used solely for scholarships to be awarded to those high school seniors, whose school is within the OPTIMUM subscribership. Past practice has been that monies from the stipend received were distributed to these students in the amount of \$250. per student. Inasmuch as monies from OPTIMUM have increased, it was discussed and decided that this year, 2018, the scholarship award will be \$500 per student. The remaining funds will be used for 2019 scholarship distribution with the expectations that this good community service will be able to be continued in this amount. **In a motion made by Stephen Simonin, seconded by Thomas Lambert, it was voted to increase the scholarship amount to \$500 per student (7 students from the 7 high schools within the franchise) and that said school's Guidance Department as in the past, will choose the student to be awarded the scholarship. Secretary Paige explained that the students in the past had to meet the criteria of attending a secondary college/institution seeking a career in electronics, technology, communications, etc. Voted unanimously. This year's scholarship distribution will be in honor of Diane Knox.**

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MANAGEMENT REPORT: Laura Jordan, representing OPTIMUM, reported that ALTICE, USA has separated from ALTICE NV (global). Very little change is anticipated.

SPIRIT (cell phone service) has become a partnership with ALTICE, USA. This partnership is anticipated to improve cell phone service.

In a motion made by Denise Russ, seconded by John Angevine, the Council **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary