

**CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, June 29, 2017**

**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, June 29, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library, South St., Litchfield, CT. A quorum was present: Chairman Stephen Simonin, Diane Knox, Litchfield; John Angevine, Warren; Thomas Lambert, Watertown; Lucille Paige, Torrington; David Rosaler, Goshen; Gary Lafferty, Watertown. Absent: Marie Soliani, John Luciano, Torrington; Denise Russ, Watertown, Andy MacDavid, Cornwall, Jeff Dunn, Thomaston.

Also present: Jennifer Young, Cablevision/Altice

Representing the public: Dr. Robert Wolf, Litchfield

Dr. Wolf, recently moved to Litchfield from New York City. He spends many hours per day using his PC. After calling for service hook-up for his TV, PC, he found that his TV wasn't connected properly; he called for service technician only to have complications. Dr. Wolf is very frustrated in that getting to the right person/dept. to get help was futile. He demands that a contact at Altice be given and that his problems with proper connections be solved immediately. Jennifer Young, Altice representative will investigate Dr. Wolf's problems to get immediate help.

In a motion made by Diane Knox , seconded by Thomas Lambert, the agenda was approved as submitted. Voted unanimous.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter was received from Cheryl Way, 23 Laurel Ridge, Oakville, CT. She detailed the problems she had in returning Optimum equipment when she changed her services to another provider. She outlined how she was given obstacles in the process of canceling her service, i.e., reasons why she should stay with Optimum, discounted prices, etc. The revised closing bill showed many errors and was not given the proper credits in cancelling her Optimum service.

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Another Optimum customer Helen Cotoradis, Farmington Ave., Torrington, wrote to complain about the high prices for Optimum and why Optimum does not have a discount plan for seniors on a fixed income. Jennifer Young reported that there was confusion in that way back the only discounts given by Optimum were in New Jersey. No discounts were given to any other areas and no senior discount are planned for the future.

Thomas Lambert reported that a subscriber in his town has forwarded a complaint regarding the loss of service from WFSB and the unavailability of the program Blue Bloods.

Chairman Simonin received an email from a customer questioning the new increases in "basic tier". Ms. Young advised that this increase was for new customers only, not those already in the system.

Chairman Simonin announced that as of July 17, 2017 a new modem will be available with an increase of 4.95/mo; the old ones can be returned. Optimum internet speeds will be increased. A list of modems that are compatible can be had. Contact Chairman Simonin.

Lucille Paige reported on the "Thank You" notes received from those students who were the recipients of the Cable Television Council scholarships.

In a motion made by Steven Simonin, seconded by John Angevine, minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted. Voted unanimous.

Upon a motion by Lucille Paige, seconded by Stephen Simonin, the Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted. Voted unanimous. Current balance: \$188.18. Inasmuch as this represents too small a balance to operate, Diane Knox suggested we pare down the amount of scholarships given out to perhaps \$225. This item for discussion will be shown on the September meeting agenda.

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Town Representatives' Report:

Garry Lafferty questioned why a fixed rate for senior citizens living on a fixed income or students, cannot be had from Optimum? He suggested a "Back to School" reduction promotion be considered.

David Rosaler (Goshen) remarked about the loss of Community Channel 5 that was hosted by Jeff Zeiner, that served the northwest corner towns. The replacement channel 12 covers *all* of the western Connecticut counties, with the majority of coverage going to the larger counties i.e, Greenwich, Norwalk, Bridgeport, etc. The *Northwest* corner now has very little coverage.

Chairman Simonin brought forth correspondence from CT Senator Richard Bluementhal, dated 6/28/17. Of special interest in the letter was the below paragraph:

"You may be interested to know that on February 2, 2017, the FCC launched a rulemaking that would allow the voluntary option of next generation TV, known as the ASTC3.0. This new standard would facilitate broadcasters' ability to use repeaters or booster stations to boost signal in hard to reach areas without causing interference. I understand that broadcaster coverage has been a major area of your concern." Mr. Simonin clarified that this means "obtaining TV off air". ASTC 3.0 requires a new tuner on TV or a separate box like the FCC set up for older TVs to get HDTV. Some funding would come from the government. The letter also covered a new 1gig Fiber to the Home to at least 25 towns in the North Western CT area. This is moving forward with government support to offer a second internet service to the people. This will be a competitive offering using off air TV and IP streaming video along with the data.

Upon a motion by Diane Knox, seconded John Angevine, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING OF CTAC WILL BE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017-6:30  
p.m.**