



MMCTV Special Board Meeting (via Zoom)

Topic: Applying for FCC Low Power FM Radio License

Present: Jay Furr (board), Tim Chamberlin (board), Angelike Contis (staff), Erin (staff), John Billingsley (community member, Richmond), Richard Dana (community member, Richmond)

Meeting starts at 6pm

Overview (Angelike):

- FCC announced this summer that low power FM license application window will open Nov. 1-8, 2023.
- As discussed with board in past, many community media stations have had success in community involvement with such stations (100W or less, 3-5 mile reach).
- Will need a radio engineer to help with technical side of application, study on position of antenna.
- There are opportunities to help community members be seen and heard and give people voice. Podcasting is popular. MMCTV could get station off ground, and create podcasting booths, provide basic audio set up and possibly space.

Discussion:

- Jay thinks LPFM is a great idea for community bulletin boards. He notes in Alaska it is used for emergency messages. Points to Richard Dana (also on call), from Richmond Rescue. It is useful for minorities to have voice, for musicians. Underlines that just because MMCTV gets permission, we aren't obligated to build it.
- Tim: "We have nothing to lose."
- John Billingsley: Could be a great resource for school for podcasting.

Possible Locations: Richmond Town Ctr (Angelike), Richmond Water Tank (higher, Jay, part of Jericho, all of Richmond?).

Engineer: Angelike has spoken to radio engineer Chip Morgan (he works with Central Vt Radio/WRUV), who has done many such applications and comes recommended. Rates are \$500 for feasibility study of one location. \$150/hr after for work on application. We probably won't be building a new radio tower, as that is not within our budget.

Jay notes that we should reach out to other LPFM stations in the state for advice/info.

More Discussion: Does MMCTV have capacity for it? We can try filing and working within our limitations to expand service and viability in community.

Technical Questions:

- Jay notes maybe we'd have a repeater in future. But would require a second license. Richard notes that Rescue and Fire also have towers, and all sites are low and ranges can be limited. Jay wonders if difference in reach at night vs. day?
- Media Factory says their LPFM station reaches almost to Richmond.
- Discussion of setting up an online radio station. As Tim puts it, there would be "unlimited reach." No FCC license required & could be helpful in emergencies.
- LPFM frequencies and rescue/fire two-way radio frequencies work well together, but avoid cell towers notes Richard.

More location discussion: Birdeye Construction (high on hill), Jericho Town building is higher and not in flood plain (Erin). Underhill is close to Mt. Mansfield. If in Jericho, do we have limitations due to Ethan Allen Firing Range?

No need to vote on idea, as no quorum, board gives go-ahead for application.

Angelike heard Federal website is a little tricky to use, so will familiarize before the deadline.

Adjourns at 6.35pm