

MMCTV BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Wed. October 11, 2023, 6PM AT MMCTV 203 Bridge St., 3rd Floor, Richmond

Present (staff): Madeline Daly, Jim Hering, Angelike Contis, Erin Wagg

Present (board): Gregg Stevens, Tim Chamberlin, Jay Furr, Ted Lyman

Present (public): Kate Blofson, John Billingsley, Peter Davis

No one on Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 6.10pm

Low Power FM Radio Application – Angelike reviews progress, including hiring engineer Chip Morgan to do study, ahead of Nov. 1-8, 2023 application window.

- We also have draft letter from selectboard okaying LPFM antenna on the building, details of which will be “fine-tuned” if we are granted license. We have been told that placing an antenna on the copula is likely not going to be approved, so it may be another roof spot.
- Engineer recommended 100.5, and his study indicated a reach of 17,000 people around it.
- MMCTV would provide studio space (application requires it) and tech know-how and there would be separate fundraising (not cable funds) and LPFM will take on own life.
- Types of programming? Emergency info, local artist profiles, community-made shows, student shows, music, live broadcasts from Cochran’s ski races, little league with young sportscasters, Catholic Church services on Sunday. Live vs. canned programs. Live local meetings? News? A free format morning show (“The Richmond Morning Zoom”)? MMCTV series like “The Talk, Vermont.
- Discussion of how people would make shows and equipment they could use at studio or beyond.
- FCC has more programming rules than cablecasting TV. One is that a studio needs to be open to the public 20 hours a week. It would be non-commercial (no ads on podcasts).
- Today software and computers allow for a modest studio start.
- Buying a radio license could be required for music.
- We’d need policies regarding political podcasts, rules of expression/free speech, FCC guidelines, which could be different from MMCTV.
- Shows could have a video component.
- National shows available: Democracy Now, Pacifica Network, Vermont Radio Exchange (free and paid versions)
- Idea to build a web-based radio station/stream parallel, with IP-based software for programming (like our TV server)
- Seeking advice from Prometheus Radio Project. Might need an FCC attorney?

Kate, Peter & John will work on a mock schedule.

Minutes (7/26/23 and special 9/14/23) – *Motion by Ted to approve 7/26, seconded by Gregg. Passes. Motion by Ted for 9/14, seconded by Tim. Passes.*

Review 3rd Qtr Financials – Nothing unusual. Our mileage numbers went up (had been low during pandemic) with a long round-trip for ACM conference to Albany and the VAN Rutland Annual Meeting.

Capital expenses included TelVue tech support for 4 years (2/23 till 2/27) and new Hollyland wireless device. Over \$1,400 (Fudge fundraiser and TV camp) need to be transferred from PayPal to bank.

We are expecting a \$45,000 check from Vermont, from VAN's short-term funding ask, due to the general changes in industry. This made it easier to recently hire Madeline as our in-house digital supervisor.

Upcoming Events: Halloween Haunting (Oct. 31 st) & Open House (Oct. 21) – Madeline and Gregg are working on animations. We are gathering projectors and white sheets.

MMU Sport & Other Productions – This fall, streamed over 7 MMU games (with MMU and CHMS/BRMS students), recorded Round Church concerts, recent Senior Center “Wild Bees” talk at library (Jim set up and trained volunteers).

We made a 50 minute Underhill Farms video, featuring 4 farms; our two MMU students worked with Sandy Wilmont and it will be shown by Conservation Commission with a screening/potluck. Hoping to also cover other seasons.

Fundraising News – It “did ok,” and was nice to share fudge. Currently, we are asking all 3 towns for support municipal coverage. A big change is that in the short term, newly edited meetings will be uploaded to YouTube and then to Internet Archive; some of that will be more automated, hopefully serve public better. Still question if can monetize on YouTube, despite our noncommercial rules.

Other Business - N/A

Board Updates – Peter Wolf stepped down, after MANY appreciated years, so we are looking for other board members. It may be time for an Underhill woman. Dinner postponed from the 19th to another night.

Executive Session – NA

7:17pm – Ted makes a motion to adjourn. Tim seconds.