

TOWN OF BEDFORD

October 6, 2016

BCTV MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Community Television Board of Overseers was held on Thursday, October 6, 2016, at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Dick Rawlings (Chairman), Bill Greiner (Vice-Chair), Rebecca Durrell, Melissa Stevens (Town Council), Chris Bandazian (Town Council Alternate), Bob Thomas, Bill Foote, Mike Sills, Bill Jennings and Coleen Richardson.

Pete Macdonald and Doug Pearson were absent.

I. Call to Order/Introductions:

Chairman Rawlings called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked those present to introduce themselves.

II. Public Input: None

III. Old Business:

Approval of Minutes – March 31, 2016

MOTION made by Bill Greiner to approve the meeting minutes from the March 31, 2016 meeting. Melissa Stevens seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor, with one abstention by Bob Thomas. Motion carried.

IV. Station Manager's Report:

Station Manager Bill Jennings provided a brief report to the Board of Overseers. Mr. Jennings stated that he began sending monthly reports to the Town Manager and BCTV Board Members in March. These reports included information about the number of programs produced and information about viewership, as well as website traffic.

Mr. Jennings stated the studio updates have continued. We are now 100 % SDI-HD; this provides a better quality picture and eliminates color wash and blurriness of faces and graphics. SDI-HD cameras have been installed in the studio and at the school. We have also completed our LED lighting upgrade in our studio. As well as being more energy efficient, this will allow us to fully utilize the immersive world of green screen technology.

Currently we are not totally satisfied with the limitations of our streaming services, so we are looking at getting a new streaming provider which can offer the same features and provide better image quality. This new system will also be less unwieldy from a user standpoint. Our current live streaming provider feed has a blurry picture, which is disappointing and we've decided we have to move on since they have not been able to provide a reason nor a fix for this issue.

New website: Coleen Richardson provided an update.

Our website is www.bedfordtv.com, but it links to the new www.bedfordnh.org website. We've tried to keep a clean and organized page for easy navigation, but still ensure you can find all the information you're looking for. The live streaming feature icons are still front and center. You can easily view agendas and minutes, as well as like our Facebook page, all directly from the department homepage. You can see what is live streaming and what the upcoming schedule is as well. The new streaming service will still be linked to the homepage director chair icons.

Coleen also pointed out the alert section on the Town's homepage. You can see there is currently a voluntary water ban in the Bedford, due to the drought in the State of NH. We are also using the crawl feature on all three channels to help get the word out to our viewers. Coleen noted that you can click on the alert button at the top of the page to navigate to the alert center. Most importantly you can sign up through the 'Notify Me' button to have specific alerts sent directly to you.

Bill Jennings continued with his report.

We also partner with 'Be Bold' which is a drug awareness program that has monthly meetings. They record the meetings and we post the link to the on-demand feed for people to be able to get that information.

WBNH and BCTV will be simultaneously broadcasting games when we can. Currently WBNH has more mobility for their equipment using a mobile hotspot to broadcast road games. We cover the home games from the press box and WBNH broadcasts our live feed on the radio for those home games. We have found a piece of equipment that will be helping us become more mobile with live feeds, so this is something that we put in our budget for next year, but it won't be possible in 2016.

We have been working on our budgets for 2017 since June. We aren't getting enough committed volunteers to maintain our coverage needs, but we do have enough work to justify another full time employee, so we are looking to add another person who would hold the position of Television and Radio Program Coordinator. We hope to hire the new full-time person in late spring, if the budget is approved in March.

Additionally, I want to inform you that our radio transmitter went down yesterday for a period of 24 hours. In the 2017 budget, we planned to get a back-up transmitter, but that project will be moved up to this year to help prevent such outages in the future. Also an RFP unit will be installed at the end of this year, or the beginning of next year, which will allow us to get 24/7 coverage of emergency radio as long as we have a generator here at the studio. This means we will be able to broadcast to listeners that have battery powered radios even during times of power outages.

Vice-chair Greiner asked Mr. Jennings to prepare some budget information for the January meeting to help people understand where the BCTV funding comes from and how the budget process is moving along at that point in time. Mr. Jennings agreed to bring this information to the next meeting.

V. 2017 Meeting Dates:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 7p.m. Subsequent 2017 meeting dates are April 6, 2017, July 6, 2017 (Tentatively) and October 5, 2017.

VI. Adjournment:

MOTION by Mike Sills to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Bill Greiner seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Danielle Basora