

## GATCom regular meeting (Government Access Television Access Commission)

Minutes for May 25, 2021

*This meeting was held by teleconference. YouTube recording is posted [here](#) and is included in the [Other Boards and Commissions playlist](#).*

Present: Theresa Bahner, Tobenna Nwangwu, Mary Hill, Aldon Hynes, Matt Schwartz

Also present: Pua Ford (coordinator & clerk)

1. **Call to Order** – Bahner called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm. Selectman-elect Vogel and commission members introduced themselves to each other

2. **Approve May 25, 2021 minutes**

*Motion to approve the minutes for May 25, 2021 (Hynes/Hill).*

*Discussion:* none.

*Vote to approve:* Bahner, Hill, Hynes, Schwartz

*Abstain:* Nwangwu

*Motion approved.*

3. **Coordinator Reports:** Center Gym audio project continues, but the system can be used if the space is needed for a meeting. The camera and audio systems in the Town Hall main meeting room were examined, since they have not been used in over a year. One main component (digital snake box) is out for repair and only 8 of 12 microphones is in use for the time being.

Some commissions are eager to resume in-person meetings, others less so. The skills we need for hiring more help are more than simple camera operation. Some who can eventually take over the part-time coordinator position will also need more computer skills.

4. **Business**

- a. *Priorities for coverage of in-person meetings; requests to record non-governmental events.*

Ford reviewed the priorities listed in the GATV policies and procedures, and explained how some low-priority meetings came to be covered regularly. Non-meeting events that are sponsored by town agencies are also recorded.

Beecher Road School administration requested our help to livestream the 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation on 6/18, to make it available to distant family members. Ford did not charge our budget for this, since it was the end of the fiscal year and the coordinator line was already over-budget.

Commission members pointed out reasons in favor of continuing virtual meetings, described how Middletown has committed to hybrid attendance at their meetings, discussed whether in-person meetings not covered by WGATV could provide virtual attendance by the public. In-person meetings in Town Hall offer the best quality of audio signal and simultaneous distribution

*[At approximately 8:25pm, Ford muted Hill's phone because of audio background noise but was unable to unmute her. Hill was present and presumed listening throughout the meeting.]*

b. *Recommendations for CAC grant application.*

Those present discussed how to use the grant to accomplish long-term goals. Closed captioning on both live and recorded meetings is achievable; some expenses are annual subscription fees going forward.

For the BRS graduation, school staff provided internet connection with a Kajeet hotspot, normally used for students who do not have internet service at home. The YouTube stream worked well, but recording cut off in the last 10-15 minutes. Ford needs to find out whether this technology will help us achieve live coverage away from Town Hall. And ethernet connection in Center Gym is still preferred, but it will take longer to put together a quote.

Ford is still waiting to hear from the Altice/Cablevision representative whether their technicians can install new transmission equipment.

c. *Posting job openings on town website:* To be done.

5. *Motion to adjourn at 8:39pm (Nwangwu/Hynes)*  
*Approval unanimous; meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Pua Ford

**Next scheduled meetings:**

Tuesday, July 27

Tuesday, August 24

Tuesday, September 28

Tuesday, October 26

Tuesday, November 23

Tuesday, **December 4** (*if needed, to approve 2022-23 operating budget proposal*)

Tuesday January 25, 2022