

November 9, 2022 meeting minutes

Programming:

Ross McGee will program a show on Phish, titled "Vt's Finest." Program could premiere on November 12 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The rebroadcast of his Jerry Garcia show has been moved so that both programs are not played back-to-back. Todd said a total of five shows will need to be reshuffled.

The very skeletal tech department is understaffed, with only Peter. In addition to Peter, the group email for tech includes Josh Brown, Alex, and Christina Strong.

Some discussion of using Dropbox, and possible errors. Scott suggested that any newly incoming tech personnel should review the metadata before the program is aired: proofreading or QA-ing six or seven metadata boxes wouldn't necessarily be overly time-consuming, provided there are sufficient volunteers. In the past, Josh would monitor and oversee the Dropbox uploads for errors.

Star Radio Hour

Jim Rooney proposed a one-hour long variety show to be called the Star Radio Hour, modeled on *Prairie Home Companion*. This show would be broadcast live from the Seven Starts Art Center twice a year in the spring and fall. Primarily Vermont artists would be featured, a different singer or act per show (rounded up by Emerson Gale) and a storytelling and literary segment, possibly hosted by Jim Schley or hosted or overseen by Ina Anderson (both names came up in the discussion). Young people could be encouraged to participate in the storytelling. The program would be followed by a dance party with a paying audience. Todd replied that the show has legs and might be broadcast as much as four times a year. Airtime could begin in the spring as a mud season special. The proposal was approved by the board members.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer's Report October 2022

\$ 23,549 in operating account

\$ 2,669 in PayPal

Some pluses and minuses this month.

On the plus side: \$2000 from doing the parking and providing music at the Sheep & Wool Festival. A big thank you to Rebecca Beguin for organizing that; \$450 from one new underwriter (Moon & Stars) and 2 renewals (Kumon Math & Reading Center, Brocklebank Brewing.)

On the minus side, the full year's rental in advance (\$2,000) for the space for our antenna and transmitter; a \$1,000 fee from Consolidated for expediting our service reinstallation at the antenna site (\$500 less than what they asked for due to Todd's insistence that they had not fulfilled their commitment to their promised timetable, resulting in our being off-air temporarily), the result being that the station wound up the month down a bit, but still with a healthy balance of \$26,212 in the coffers.

Note: We have consolidated our three bank accounts into one to keep life simple.

More on Consolidated (following treasurer's report)

The dispute with Consolidated is ongoing, after they pulled the plug on the station on July 30th. They showed up the following Wednesday, a full week after the station shut down. The station took \$500 off the bill from Consolidated. Consolidated has threatened to cut off the station, although the bill was paid on time by wire transfer, according to Jim. In sum, Consolidated behavior was questionable. There was a discussion about possible breach of contract with station's legal counsel, also a possible complaint to the public service board.

Tech report

As mentioned before, the tech support is currently overstretched. Some have volunteered for joining the tech department. Carl is interested in focusing on social media. The advertisement that has been run in the WRV Herald has not resulted in inquiries. A training session for volunteers needs to happen soon. Paul Kifner's [sp?] show is on hold because of the tech support shortage in personnel. Lack of tech support, Todd remarked, has a corrosive effect on programmers. He suggested an early December date for a two-hour training session.

CD player

Two CD players need repair, or should at least be replaced with a new one. CD players are essential for playing CD promos.

Transmitter

The current transmitter is working properly. Todd visited the transmitter recently. A concern is that rodents or other animals will enter the shelter and chew on the wires, especially during colder temperatures. Dryer tissues could be used to repel animals. (Jim recommended something that smelled like Irish Spring.) Henry asked about temperature. Ralph answered that since a transmitter produces heat, sub-zero temperatures should not affect its performance.

Rent

\$2000 has been paid for rent. This year the rent increased from \$1.00 to \$2K. Tim Murphy said that the town could be asked to help with the expense since the station provides a service for the town. The question arose as to how much the station should ask for; Jim suggested \$1000, because asking for the whole sum may not be well received by the selectboard. Applying for assistance would require a petition signed by 5% of the town population, or over 100 people. However, an effort should be made to get more than the minimum number. Possible locations for the petition signing would be the Co-op as well as the town dump (best congregations of the citizenry). The petition needs to be vetted 45 days before the town approval. Todd will talk to the board about the issue. The rent is on a 1-year lease with the water plant. Todd suggested staying out of the politics of the selectboard and Prudential.

New underwriters

- Moon and Stars (from Nando) -- \$150
- Carlita's Cantina -- \$250. "Soft" opening for the new establishment is possibly next week. Fire marshal still must issue permit. "Hard" opening will come later.
- Royalton Fee Committee -- \$150. As of meeting, check hasn't arrived yet.
- Environmental Justice Law Society -- \$150. (This organization is affiliated with VT Law and Graduate School.) From Anisa Rodriguez (who rapped with "Pineapple" guy).

Possible new underwriter is Kuay's [sp?]. Ralph is in touch with the restaurant and trying to persuade them to be underwriters.

WFVR party at Shay's house

Good time was had by all. 20-30 people attended, including some friends of the station and some neighbors.

Power unit wasn't holding a recharge. Unit should go for 18+ hours, but this time only went 2 hours.

Additional expense for power unit needed but won't be needed until next spring.

Possible 1-day music festival

Shay and Tim are proposing a one-day music festival, but Tunbridge Fairground as a location is highly unlikely because of heavy booking. Some more discussion about location. Ideal scenario would be if every ticket was sold before the festival date.

Other business

Next meeting slated for Wednesday December 14, same place 6:00 pm at the South Royalton Library.

Possible schedule conflict would be exams at VT law up to December 20.

Time for next meeting was agreed by all present. Zoom should be considered for some participants, since the station already pays \$15 a month for its services. A question remains about getting a projection screen.