



## **DARIEN TV 79 ADVISORY BOARD**

### **MINUTES**

**Tuesday January 14, 2014**

**Present:** Jim Cameron, David Dever, Gene Coyle, Mike Wheeler

**Absent:** Lynn Hamlen, Marilyn Hart

Acting Chairman Jim Cameron called the meeting to order in room 206 at 7:38 pm. The meeting was aired live on Darien TV79.

Minutes of the September 24, 2013 meeting were approved.

Program Director Jim Cameron updated the board on current programming and staffing of videographers, noting that the mid-FY budget was in good shape.

General Manager David Dever reported on improvements to the station's technical operations including new ceiling mounted audience microphones to be installed in room 206. He noted that grant money from the Area 9 Cable Council had also provided funds for new microphones and tripods for use in external shoots.

There was discussion of the continuing interest in getting TV79's signal carried on AT&T's uVerse "cable" network. The previous challenges have been indemnification wording in the AT&T contract and advise of Darien Town Counsel that it was unacceptable. The Board asked Dever and Cameron to revisit this issue.

Cameron noted that AT&T is selling its CT operations to Frontier Communications and it remained to be seen if the new owners would be as aggressive in building out the network.

He added that several Darien customers had complained after switching to AT&T from Cablevision only to find that it did not carry Darien TV79 despite promises that it would. Cameron said it was dishonest for AT&T to bait and switch customers like this.

Cameron also noted that carriage on uVerse would mean a much larger potential audience for TV79, which had both up and downsides: the upside being that subscribers in neighboring towns could watch our programming... the downside being that a national audience could also be watching. He said that it would probably be wise to brief the Board of Selectmen on all aspects of uVerse before moving forward.

There was also discussion about the Darien Times' recent success in launching an internet "radio" station for spots play-by-play and blizzard coverage. The Board agreed that this might be a simple, low cost manner of getting Darien TV79's audio distributed to all on the internet and Cameron volunteered to investigate what was involved with the third-party technology.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM CAMERON

Acting Chairman / Secretary