



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, 9 December 2009

- Meeting held at 33 Bridge Street Bellows Falls
 - In attendance: Dot Read, Bob Ross, Maya Costley, Tony Elliott, Bill Holtz, Gary Smith
 - Notetaker: Gary Smith
-

1. Call To Order: 7:50pm [delayed for snow, etc.]

2. Meeting Minutes 11.11.09 Tony moved and Maya seconded that we approve the minutes of 11.11.09. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report There were no printed financials for this meeting because financials are prepared quarterly. Tony cites bank balance approximately \$4780.56. No action by the board taken.

4. Old Business:

a. Silent Auction: Income from the silent auction of November 4 was \$2244. Thank you notes to all auction donors were written and signed by all board members during the meeting. Gary will mail all these tomorrow.

b. Underwriting:

i. A list of all Chamber members was presented once again to the board so they could choose one or two to contact to solicit underwriting.

ii. Tony secured underwriting for Fat Franks in the amount of \$275.

iii. The Colonial has participated again for an aggregate total of \$300. More Colonial underwriting is planned for January.

iv. Some discussion of adding on-air underwriting announcements for regular corporate sponsors such as Island Corporation and Sovernet. Tony notes that web appreciation already in place and on-air may be held for underwriters only. Conversation to be continued next meeting.

c. Broadcast Delay Unit: The unit was purchased by Gary and will be installed by Tony and Gary on December 22nd. There will be a simplified manual sent to the Hosts once the unit is installed.

i. There was discussion about restrictions on the use of this unit and it was made clear by the board that the unit was not to be used to censor inappropriate music, only for conversation.

ii. A general policy/tutorial should be drafted of how to maintain care on-air regardless of the obscenity delay now that WOOL will open the air to call-ins. Gary will make a stab at this before the next meeting.

d. Training:

i. John Ellis was trained by Dickie Colo.

ii. In discussion about Myra Ashcroft's proposal to read books online, Tony notes that there are a multitude of public domain publications available at Project Gutenberg. The Board agreed that perhaps we should focus on short stories and air these between 7-8pm on Saturdays.

e. Programming:

i. **New Shows:** John Ellis is scheduled to begin The Spanky Payne show on Dec 11 from 7-9pm. A synopsis of his show is this: *Music of all types from hillbilly to rock and roll, metal, classic rock and oldies, 80's, 90's, and local bands. Everything that's good.*

ii. **Cancelled and rescheduled shows:** This month saw the greatest shift of WOOL programming to date with many shows either removed from the air or changed in scheduling. Some shows listed as broadcasting were not (like Folkways, Between the Lines, and Your Town Underground.) It's hoped that the schedule has been brought into line with reality.

1. Don Malcolm has decided to thin his large repertoire of broadcasts and now do only one show, Sundays, from 6-8pm. The consolidated show will now be called "Cuzin' Isaac's Musical Showcase."

2. *Flashpoints* has been thinned to fewer timeslots to make more room for more local broadcasting. Consult the Program Schedule for complete changes.

3. Paul Clipper has expanded his show by an hour and moved it to Tuesday 4-6pm.

4. Bill and Rebecca move to Saturdays from 3-5pm.

5. Jeff Weiler expands to fill the gap from 2-3pm on Saturdays.

f. Printed Program Schedule: After some research it appears the prices between Bob's direct mail contact and the Vermont company is minimal - perhaps \$75 difference. Gary recommends staying with the Vermont company if we continue to pursue this. Also there was much information gathered by Don Malcom about inserting the program schedule into one or another area publication (newspaper.)

1. *River Record:* The Record runs 4200 copies and our insertion fee is \$168.00. I have not confirmed a printing price for this quantity. It appears that this might cost us \$400 in printing costs or less than \$600 for the entire soup to nuts operation.

2. *The Eagle Times:* The Eagle Times runs 8700 copies and the insertion fee is \$360. Tony mentioned that this is not generally our footprint (I guess this paper goes north?) and prefers the River Record.

3. [*The Outlook:* Though shortly post-meeting, I include in these minutes the rates for this new local newspaper. The cost would be \$337 to insert 7500 14 X 18 sheets for delivery in Springfield, North Springfield, North Walpole, Rockingham, Athens, Bellows Falls, and Westminster.]

4. **Decision:** Bob moves and Dot 2nds that we print enough (5000-7000) copies of the schedule to insert in the River Record at a budget of \$600. The Board approved this motion unanimously. It was decided that we should enlarge the schedule to tabloid size (11 X 17) to both make it more noticeable in the paper and also to increase advertising space. Gary will either make this adjustment or arrange to have it done by a professional designer. Printing will be done by a local Vermont company because on investigation the rates to ship the job out of the area were only nominally less expensive for printing.

g. Host Agreements Sent: Dot agreed to follow up with hosts, after receiving a list from Heather, on the matter of Host Agreements still not completed by hosts and also to warn them of late Membership Dues still pending from some hosts.

h. Agreement With Opera House: Gary sent a slide to the BF Opera House to be viewed onscreen before all movies in exchange for on-air underwriting by the BF Opera House at WOOL. A copy of the slide is attached to these minutes.

5. New Business:

- a. Membership Drive:** So far there are 67 members who have renewed. There remain 20 members not yet renewed between board and hosts and it is expected all these will be paid up by Christmas (because Gary is going to ask them personally to do so.) This puts us just 33 people short of 2009 member renewals. Attached is a list of those remaining 34 people and perhaps the directors know some of these who can be nudged into renewing. Gary can send another request for renewal after the holidays. These numbers are a positive sign, even though membership is still down from previous years.
- b. FCC License Update:** Gary presented email from Eileen Bleiweiss at the FCC noting that the FCC hopes to be complete with its decisions and recommendations for the GFCBC license application by the end of the year and that decisions based on points will take longer, perhaps six months into 2010. This correspondence is attached to these minutes.
- c. Holiday Host Party:** Some discussion of a Holiday Host Party and Tony notes he's having a party on December 29th to which hosts will be invited. Scheduled for the Windham Hotel Lobby.
- d. Mardi Gras Party:** Pete Simoneaux has given WOOL a tentative confirmation (a what!?) to play with his combo at the Second Annual Mardi Gras Party now schedule to occur on February 13th and to be combined with Valentine's Day for a super special night of fun. A full confirmation should happen shortly.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board met in executive session to discuss a personnel matter and after executive session the board voted unanimously to instruct the Secretary, Bob Ross, to send a letter outlining the decisions of the board regarding this matter.

7. Next Scheduled Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 7pm.

8. Motion to Adjourn: Tony moved, Bob seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting 9:50 pm.

From: Gary Smith <gary@blacksheepradio.org>
Subject: Re: Great Falls Community Broadcasting NCE App 20071019AGZ
Date: November 9, 2009 12:12:38 PM EST
To: "Irene Bleiweiss" <Irene.Bleiweiss@fcc.gov>



Thank you very much for this explanation.
You are very kind to take the time to respond.

All the best,

Gary

On Nov 9, 2009, at 11:53 AM, Irene Bleiweiss wrote:

Points system decisions are paper "hearings." While much simpler than courtroom type hearings, the Communications Act requires that all "hearings" be conducted at the Commission level. The staff prepares a recommendation on the outcome, which five Commissioners must consider and vote upon. It is hard to estimate how long it would take the Commission to act upon such recommendations. The Commission would also be considering major policy items spanning broadcasting, telephone, wireless communications, international matters, etc. at the same time. So, unfortunately, yes it is likely that a point system order would come after first quarter 2010.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Smith [mailto:gary@blacksheepradio.org]
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 11:13 AM
To: Irene Bleiweiss
Subject: Re: Great Falls Community Broadcasting NCE App 20071019AGZ

Thank you, Irene, for this response. For clarity, when you note that groups requiring points analysis will receive information at "a later date" might you be more specific? Might this later date be AFTER the first quarter of 2010?

Without being at all contentious, it's our assumption that the points analysis is a simple matter of requirements tests and, on that basis, our application is the selectee in our group. For the edification of our thousand members and supporters, can you offer a brief explanation why this should take so long?

I'm trying to give them hope and maintain the goodwill in our community that has allowed our application in the first place. We are patient and understanding but this nevertheless weakens our position with our funders and causes everyone great anxiety.

I VERY MUCH appreciate whatever words of wisdom you can offer.

Kindest possible regards,

Gary Smith
President & Volunteer

On Nov 9, 2009, at 10:57 AM, Irene Bleiweiss wrote:

Dear Mr. Smith,
Jim Bradshaw asked me to respond to your inquiry. Your application is

in Group 384. Our goal is to complete our analysis for substantially all remaining NCE groups by the end of 2009. For those groups that can be decided on fair distribution principles, the staff would issue an order announcing a tentative selectee. For those groups requiring a points analysis, the staff would make its recommendations to the full Commission, which would issue orders at a later date. Generally,

these are omnibus decisions, ruling on dozens of groups at one time.
Irene Bleiweiss

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Smith [mailto:gary@blacksheepradio.org]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 9:34 AM
To: James Bradshaw
Subject: Re: Great Falls Community Broadcasting NCE App 20071019AGZ

Hi, Jim,

I'm wondering if there has been any progress on the matter sketched out below.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the work you folks do and I understand the challenges that face you in completing the tasks before

you.

Nevertheless, two years is a long time in the world of community support and I would love to offer encouragement to the good people of our region who have scraped to come up with the thousands of dollars that was required in making our application.

Can you tell me anything? I would be most grateful.

Best regards,

Gary

On Apr 6, 2009, at 9:04 AM, James Bradshaw wrote:

Mr. Smith,

The application remains mutually exclusive with several other applications in the group. We have released 5 Orders selecting with over 100 tentatively selectees from over 100 groups of mutually exclusive applications. I expect a few more such orders to be released in the coming 6 months. It is likely that your group will be

included in that batch, but I can't say for certain.

Jim

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Smith [mailto:gary@blacksheepradio.org]
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2009 10:15 AM
To: James Bradshaw
Subject: Re: Great Falls Community Broadcasting NCE App 20071019AGZ

Dear Jim,

I represent Great Falls Community Broadcasting Company of Bellows Falls, VT.

We are a not-for-profit community organization and an applicant for a

new NCE license.

Our account number is 365289

My understanding is that we had successfully extracted ourselves from

a 12-way MX group nearly a year ago and were the presumed winner in our smaller group based on the point system prescribed by the FCC.

I realize this process takes a long time but I'm wondering if you could shed any light on the process and perhaps tell me where that process stands at the moment.

I'm having some trouble navigating the FCC website to learn any news of our progress and our many members are asking about our status.

I am very grateful for your help.

You can reach me by return email or on my cellphone at 603 303 1239.

Kindest regards,

Gary Smith

On Mar 17, 2008, at 4:10 PM, James Bradshaw wrote:

Gary,

You are in a 12-way MX group.

There will be one winner selected from the group, unless you take action to extract yourself from the group. I wouldn't risk the odds

on that one.

Your group will be identified in a later PN, so time is currently on

your side.

Jim

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Smith [mailto:gary.s@fortapache.net]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 3:46 PM

To: James Bradshaw

Subject: Re: Great Falls Community Broadcasting NCE App 20071019AGZ

Yes, Jim, I have spoken with both.

1. I believe it's possible that our MX group is daisy-chained to another MX group.
2. I have anecdotal reports that this might keep us off the list released on March 7, regardless of the size of our own MX group.

Our engineer is doing further analysis this evening and I hope he can

confirm or disprove the truth of the first sentence.

Can you confirm the truth of the second sentence?

Lastly, if both sentences are true, what are our remedies during the comment period ending 30 days from March 7?

Thanks!

Gary

On Mar 17, 2008, at 3:37 PM, James Bradshaw wrote:

Have you talked to your engineer or your attorney about your MX group?

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Smith [mailto:gary.s@fortapache.net]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 3:27 PM

To: James Bradshaw

Subject: Great Falls Community Broadcasting NCE App 20071019AGZ

Dear Jim,

I am the president of Great Falls Community Broadcasting Company (GFCBC) of Bellows Falls, VT, a small, single-application, non-profit organization.

Our application for an NCE license bears the reference number 20071017AAI.

It was our understanding that our application was in an MX group with

two other applicants:

1. Horizon Christian Fellowship (File No. BNPED - 20071019AGZ)
2. The Vinikoor Family Foundation (File No. BNPED - 20071018AKB)

Neither our application nor the applications of others in our MX group

appear in the list released by the FCC on March 7, 2008 (Publication

DA 08-536)

There are several reasons this might be so but we at GFCBC would like

to be certain none of our rights are waived by remaining silent in the

face of our exclusion from the FCC's list.

Consequently, I'm writing to make note of the fact that GFCBC and 20071017AAI should be on the list of MXd Applicants as released by

the

FCC.

Could you please write back and inform me why we are not on this list

and, If we are on a different list, when we might be notified.

Based on the FCC point analysis, we believe that when evaluated against the applications in our MX group listed above, GFCBC will be

awarded the license.

We would like to do everything possible to secure this decision.

I can be reached by return email or on my mobile phone at 603 303 1239.

Thanks so much for your help and attention.

Kindest regards,

Gary Smith

[← Back to order details](#)



Payment Summary

Date printed: Nov-20-09

Status: Paid with PayPal on Nov 20, 2009.
Seller: emovendo
Buyer: historea

Shipping

Seller should ship to: **Gary Smith**
PO Box 330
387 Ramsay Hill Road
Walpole NH 03608
United States
(603) 756-3276

Payment

Item Name	Shipping	Qty	Price
Eventide BD-500 Broadcast Profanity Delay BD500 NEW .360205852777	UPS Ground: US \$25.75 Estimated delivery: November 24 - December 01, 2009	1	US \$899.99
		Subtotal:	US \$899.99
		Shipping & handling:	US \$25.75
		Total:	US \$925.74

Payment details: PayPal

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