



21 July 2007

Dear Hosts,

Three weeks have passed since our annual meeting and the business of summer has kept me from writing. I'd like to catch up.

First, I want to say thanks for a really fine meeting and a happy gathering afterwards. I hope that you were as inspired as I was by the fabulous turnout of a really great group of people. I met some new folks and was impressed by what a good bunch we are.

33 BRIDGE STREET CONSTRUCTION

People are wondering what the heck is going on at 33 Bridge Street. A new handicap ramp (or whatever the proper term is) is being installed in the front of the building and also some steps up the hill from the parking log. I have this news from our generous landlords:

Hi Gary,

Stew said that everyone should be able to get access the building via the new ramp, but they have to access from the east side and cannot crawl up the "path" bank at this point because a truck is parked there and fencing is attempting to keep people from being flattened by heavy equipment.

The project should be mostly done by the end of the week. There is a set of stairs going in on the old "path"

Dot

Don't panic. It's almost finished!

SETTLEMENT TOWARDS OUR NEW NCE LICENSE

Some news: since the meeting, Great Falls Community Broadcasting has entered into a settlement agreement with four other applicants for new NCE Licenses. As you may remember, we applied last year for a Non Commercial Educational license but were locked in conflict with a bunch of other applicants and this conflict had stalled the process with the FCC. This new settlement agreement details terms according to which the other three applicants will amend their applications and bring GFCBC another step closer to getting our new, more powerful license. I'm guardedly optimistic that we will indeed get this license. The settlement was expensive but the impact it will have on our viability and on radio in the Connecticut River Valley is substantial. To defray costs, the board of directors may once again enlist your

help and the help of all members. I'll keep you posted on this. If you'd like to SEE the settlement document, it's online at

www.wool.fm/pdfs/MX384SettlementFINAL.pdf

HOST FEES

Speaking of financial help, we've already started to receive the new host fee payments. Heather Lane is keeping track of who's paid and may soon send a note around to remind those who haven't yet paid that there's no time like now.

We need the money for these unexpected expenses as well as our normal upkeep.

FIVE MINUTE REPORTING NEAR LAUNCH

Our new five-minute reporting system is now in place and Tony Elliott and I are busy brainstorming systems and protocols that will integrate this new system into our programming. As you may remember, the new system allows a certified reporter - we'll use that term until we come up with something better - to phone in up to five minutes of content. That content is then automatically put on the air either in a specific spot on the schedule or, if chosen, in a random placement as our PSAs are currently scheduled. So what might this content be? It could be almost anything! Sports scores, hot lunch menus, music reviews, event announcements, a daily poem, a daily diary, weather reports, a science factoid - the content is limited only by your imagination (and the FCC rules.) Having said that, I should mention that our normal policies will apply; there can't be any advertising, no incitement to purchase, no prices, no slander or foul language, and nothing that intentionally misleads or insults our listeners. Ideally, all these ideas will speak to our listeners in some way they find interesting or educational. While we work on a new set of training materials for this revolutionary new programming, I hope you can get your thinking caps on and write to me with a thousand ideas that either you are willing to work on or that you think our listeners will enjoy. Hearing ideas helps us think about the regulations and also the technology. The more clearly articulated this programming is when it's launched, the easier it will be to administer and the more successful will be its introduction to the public.

This "reporting" is as easy as leaving a voicemail message and is open to people who aren't comfortable with the engineering of a normal show or who would like to participate in WOOL but have only a few minutes each week to offer. It expands our community and adds the excitement of diversity to our programming. And it's ready to go.

I hope you're enjoying your summer and that you're as excited as I am about the great progress at your community station, Black Sheep Radio.

As always, feel free to email me with any questions or comments or to phone me at home at 603 756 3276.

All the best,

Gary

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