

April 3, 2004

BF Radio Community Meeting Notes
(notetaker)

Participants: Tony, Sara, Bob, Gary, David, Nancy

Legal name -After discussion about the pros and cons of various names, the group agreed to use Great Falls Community Broadcasting as the legal name and to include Black Sheep Radio as a "doing business as" to permit us to use both names in the future as the group deems fit. The group agreed to proceed with incorporation as a Vermont not-for-profit organization, application of an EIN, and application for 501(c)(3) status (federal not-for-profit). Nancy offered to contact Ray to discuss next steps and Bob agreed to participate in legal discussions.

Organizational structure - The group discussed consensus decision-making and the roles of committees, the monthly community meeting, the BFRADIO listserv, and the Board of Directors to be formed upon incorporation and acceptance of by-laws. The group agreed that the BFRADIO listserv shouldn't be the sole vehicle for communicating meeting agendas and reports and that print copies should be posted on an accessible bulletin board (ultimately in the station but in a public place to be determined until then). Committees are where the bulk of the project work will be done. As such, committee agendas and meeting times/locations should be posted in the two places and all meetings open to the whole community. Committee reports complete with decisions, proposals, recommendations, and items to be placed on the agenda of the monthly community meeting should be posted (again, both places) one week prior to the community meeting to encourage Q&A and discussion prior to the meeting.

The heart of the monthly community meeting will be the committee reports and related discussion. Board members are encouraged to participate in this meeting in order to appreciate the spirit of the discussion and inform their own decision-making. Initially, the monthly community meeting will take place at The Windham the first Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. - Noon.

The board of directors will meet monthly within 7-10 days of the monthly community meeting in order to take action on any issues needing resolution for committees to proceed. It is anticipated that the Board largely deal with issues with financial, legal, and political implications.

Relationship with FACT - We likely will operate as a sub-contractor to FACT. Ray has agreed to assist with this contract as well.

Domain name - The group agreed to register wool.fm for our domain, and this was done during the meeting. Thanks to Tony for his out-of-pocket founding contribution to cover the one-year registration. Tony offered to handle the related server issues with SoVerNet and Dexter. An e-mail address (feedback@blacksheepradio.org) will be created for public use and initially will be channeled to Nancy's personal e-mail address.

Antenna/Tower issues - Nancy reported on her conversation with Terry Gould of Adelpia. Terry explained that there are three parties to deal with on this issue - the landowner who apparently receives half of any revenue generated by the tower, a tower management company based in Texas, and Adelpia. Terry promised to provide the contact information for the tower management company so that we could get a market value of the tower space for our budget planning purposes. Nancy plans to have a conversation with the landowner to better understand the arrangement and what discounting opportunities might exist.

Apparently, Shapiro has recently sold his three radio stations (for \$22 million) to a company in the south so our plan B to use his shed may be more difficult. Nancy also reported that Ira has other ideas we might want to consider if the Adelpia tower doesn't work out for any reason. Someone indicated that tower space rental is in the ballpark of \$300-500 per month.

PR report - WNNE-Channel 31 had broadcast a short piece on the project. It included a very nice shot of Ollie's face and great quotes by Cameron, a Compass School student who worked on a Claymation piece about being a DJ which will be on our website. Thanks to Ezra, Ollie, Anna, and Cameron for participating. Bill Lockwood is interested in writing a piece for the Bellows Falls Town Crier and Sally Anderson would like an update for the Eagle Times. She also will draft a press release to update the public on happenings (permit, name, fundraising goal) and circulate it on BFRADIO. Bob offered to help with spokesperson responsibilities.

Fundraising committee report - Nancy (chair of the committee) reported that Gary, Bob, Sara, and she had met and brainstormed fundraising ideas (no written report yet). She presented copies of the latest version of the budget which included input by Ezra, Justin, Ira (facilities/equipment), Dot (programming), and Art. The group went over it line item by line item and arrived at a start-up budget of \$50,000. So, \$50,000 is our initial fundraising goal. Nancy will update the budget based on the discussion and take a first crack at drafting materials for a fundraising packet. Gary offered to work with Charlie to ensure that our materials look top-notch and suggested that Mary Lynch might assist with the design. Nancy noted that Tim had offered his graphics design services at one point and volunteered to contact him about his availability to begin to generate design ideas. The group discussed a few grant opportunities and agreed it is premature to pursue the TOP grant available through the U.S. Department of Commerce. Sara offered to send along the RFP for a media justice grant due April 20th.

Next meeting: Saturday, May 8th at 10:30 a.m. at The Windham. Please try to send committee reports and agenda items to BFRADIO by May 1st.