

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

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

### **1. Call To Order:** 7:11pm

**2. Meeting Minutes 10.14.09** Dot moved and Don seconded that we accept without change the meeting minutes from August 5, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report** Tony gave a report of our finances in broad strokes. Financials are now submitted quarterly. General discussion of membership renewal which is moving in a positive direction compared to last year. This has put some distance between us and crisis which will be made even larger by the coming Silent Auction.

### **4. Old Business:**

**a. Silent Auction:** There are currently 34 items on our list with more items coming daily. Bob estimates revenues between \$1500 - \$2000. General discussion of plans for the event and delegation of further efforts to collect goods and services donations from the community.

**b. Underwriting:** Further to our discussions at the last meeting concerning who and what can be the subject of underwriting at WOOL, the board asked Gary to draft a policy defining our decisions at the last meeting to restrict underwriting by policy to certain types of entities. Since the last meeting, Gary proposed online the following policy:

*WOOL recognizes that our on-air underwriting should reflect our philosophy and operating principles. To that end we will accept on-air underwriting only from those businesses, organizations, and individuals who do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, creed, age, or national origin. At its sole discretion, WOOL reserves the right to decline offers of underwriting.*

After some discussion and reflection, Dot moved and Tony seconded the motion to accept this policy draft as binding without changes. The motion passed unanimously.

**c. Archiving:** In response to our worry that our archiving system was nearing capacity and faced with the probability that we would need to spend \$1000 to add to that capacity, Tony took the initiative to remove superfluous items from our server memory, name those items which are redundant. This file-clearing has afforded us another year of archiving without this related expense.

#### **d. Programming & Training:**

**i.** John Ellis is asking for training and Dickie Colo has volunteered to train him. Heather is in control of the training of Myra Ashcroft. Other hosts have agreed to do some training: Bruce Sterling, Jeff Starratt, & Art Coates

- ii. **New Shows:** Curtis Green is starting show on Saturday, Nov 14, at 11am. Beau Bowler working with Compass School and has received the names of students interested. Will keep us posted.
- iii. **Cancelled & Moved Shows:** Shamus Martin may cancel his show on Friday evenings. Dickie will confirm.
- e. **Host Agreements:** Most hosts have now forwarded agreements to WOOL. Heather will provide list of those for whom we are still waiting. Heather will provide a list to Gary by Friday, Nov 13.
- f. **Football Broadcasts:** The broadcast of football games was suspended owing to technical problems. Don will try to remedy the problems in time for the next season. He's made contacts with new volunteers to broadcast, as well.
- g. **Printed Program Schedule:** Further to our discussions about how to fulfill our promise to CT River Transit who financed our printed program schedule. Bob will look into rates at the direct-mail firm he uses. Don will investigate insertion fees at local newspapers.

## **5. New Business:**

- a. **Host Party Results:** We had an informal gathering of the WOOL hosts on Nov. 6 and some things were learned & requested:
  - i. The DJ Computer needs repair and Art Coates has volunteered to fix it if he can.
  - ii. Paul Clipper has volunteered to reactivate the Host Post newsletter and will proceed accordingly.
  - iii. A number of hosts are requesting a delay unit so that they can broadcast incoming phonecalls from the community. Gary requested we purchase such a device and has found one on Ebay for \$899 + shipping. Bob moves and Maya seconds the motion that we purchase this device. The motion carried unanimously and Gary will purchase the device.
- b. **Mardi Gras Event 2010:** Maya recommends the date of February 13 for the event and will look for entertainment for the event. Tony will speak to Planet Zydeco. Maya will talk to Brattleboro Brass Band. We'll have a decision about the date and entertainment by the December meeting.
- c. **GRAI Kids Radio Program:** Gary agreed to participate again in the Great River Arts grant-funded program for students in the area. GRAI is asking for participation in a benefit for the program. Board OKs benefit participation.
- d. **Underwriting Followup** Gary asked for help in contacting those companies solicited for underwriting support of WOOL. There were no immediate volunteers and directors were asked to take the list of companies home and perhaps choose one with whom to follow up.
- e. **FCC Correspondence:** Gary has received word from the FCC that they hope to render decision on our application by end of 2009. It may require further hearing with the FCC. Attached.
- f. **Magic Show:** Don continues his pursuit of a springtime fundraiser magic show.
- g. **Opera House Ads:** The Opera House Committee has agreed to exchange on-screen advertising for WOOL for on-air advertising for the Opera House. Gary will follow up.

**6. Next Scheduled Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7pm.

**7. Motion to Adjourn:** Dot moved, Bob seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting 9:16 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