

TMMA Minutes: February 9, 2005

Attendance:

Andy Friedlich – Acting chair (Treas.-P5), Gloria Bloom (Clerk-P4)

Pct 9: Anne LoRusso, Vicki Blier, Janet Post

Pct 8: David Horton

Pct 6: Alan Lazarus, David Kaufman

Pct 5: Sam Silverman, Eph Weiss

Pct 3: Darwin Adams, Arthur Katz

Pct 2: Betsy Weiss

Pct 1: John Bartenstein, Joel Adler, Jon Cole

CAC: Margaret Counts-Klebe (7), Miriam Boochet (4)

Andy called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm in room G-15 of the TOB.

Treasurer's Report and approval of minutes (agenda item #1):

Treasurer reported a balance of \$3856.80. After committed but unexpended funds, the balance is \$2433.82. Report accepted unanimously

The minutes of the January 12th meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously without amendments.

Presentation by the Communications Advisory Committee (agenda item #7):

A letter from the CAC from Jeanne Canale was read by Andy Friedlich regarding changes proposed for media access in Lexington. Miriam Boochet and Alan Lazarus presented information regarding the changes. Emphasis was placed on the “transitional period” between the time that Comcast ceases its regular broadcast schedule and the time that a new organization assumes responsibility for broadcasting. During the transition, both Comcast and RCN will simultaneously broadcast existing Town events such as Town Meeting.

A committee has been appointed to request proposals (RFP/IBP) from various media companies to take on the task of broadcasting for Lexington in place of Comcast. The studios in Kites End facility will be used indefinitely for broadcast operations. Bids to operate the media center will be competitive.

A group of Lexington citizens calling themselves “LexMedia” have joined to create a non-profit media corporation which would potentially be selected as Lexington's new media provider. LexMedia is currently forming by-laws and electing a Board of Directors. A great deal of care has been taken to avoid any conflicts of interest between people who are managing the RFP process and the people who are creating LexMedia. LexMedia will have to respond to the RFP exactly as all other vendors.

The cable access operation will be paid by a portion of receipts from Comcast and RCN in a manner similar to the way Comcast is currently being paid.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding some CAC funds which were used to pay an attorney to look over LexMedia's by-laws. Alan and Miriam promised to raise the issue with the CAC.

LexMedia intends to seat its Board of Directors by April of this year.

A motion was made by Vicki Blier:

“That TMMA contact Jeanne Canale requesting that the RFP include a requirement that TMMA have a seat on the Board of Directors for the entity chosen <ie: to operate cable access>” The motion passed unanimously.

Miriam asked for TMMA volunteers who might be interested in becoming a member of the LexMedia board of directors.

Warrant Information Book: Approve increased payment (agenda item #3):

A motion was made to increase the allotment from TMMA dues for the Information Book from \$300 to \$400 this year. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Andy noted that the edit session for the book is scheduled at 9:30AM February 26 and that all information authors should consider this when planning their time to write their reports.

Honoring Long-Serving TMMA Members (agenda item #5):

A proposal by Robert Rotberg was read by Andy which suggested that we honor those who have served for 30 years or more. This would make 14 people eligible this year. The group made many suggestions regarding appropriate honoraria including a plaque (not very popular), a small lapel pin or other jewelry with some Lexington insignia, and the donation of books to Carey Library with the honored persons name on the bookplate.

The council agreed (without vote) to recommend to Robert Rotberg that he send a request to the TMMA list for award recommendations.

Cosponsoring the LWV meeting on the Middlesex Hospital property (agenda item #6):

Margaret Count-Klebe reported on this meeting which is scheduled at Brookhaven by the League of Women Voters. She extended an invitation to TMMA to co-sponsor this event. The meeting will take place at 7:30pm on March 15th.

A motion by John Bartenstein was made that the TMMA cosponsor the event provided that it is impartial <ie: that the meeting not take a position on whether the various Met State proposals should or should not be adopted by Town Meeting>. The motion was approved unanimously.

TMMA By-law Revision (agenda item #4):

A committee composed of Eph Weiss, John Bartenstein, and Andy Friedlich reported on work they have done to clarify and improve the TMMA bylaws. A packet of information including an executive summary, revised bylaws, and the old bylaws was distributed to the council. A careful review of the changes was presented by John and the group discussed minor changes of language or nuance. No significant changes were felt to be needed. David Kauffman recommended adding management of the TMMA email list to the responsibilities of the Executive Council.

David Horton made a motion:

“That with the 2 revisions mentioned, the revised by-laws be approved by the Executive Committee and be presented to the membership at large for approval at the Annual TMMA Meeting.” The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteers for remaining articles in the Information Book (agenda item #2):

The remaining items were taken by Darwin Adams and Andy Friedlich. Andy will publish the complete list on the TMMA website soon.

Format for the TMMA Informational Meeting:

Vicki Blier noted that we had discussed improvements to the way in which this meeting should be conducted at our January 12th meeting. All agreed that the practice of reading verbatim from the Information Book was not acceptable.

After some discussion, the group agreed to encourage presenters at the meeting to provide and “executive summary” of the high points of their motion(s) and to limit the presentation time to approximately 3 minutes. The majority of the time at the meetings would then be devoted to questions from the audience. In addition, after the formal presentations (with Q&A), there would be an informal reception where TMMA members could discuss articles with the presenters.

The following motion was made by Vicki Blier:

That the authors of the TMMA Warrant summaries will discuss with their article sponsors (those who will present to Town Meeting) the expectations for our new format. Vicki Blier will post a statement summarizing the new format to the TMMA listserv after running it by the Communications Working Group of the TMMA Executive Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Submitted by Darwin Adams, substituting as Clerk