



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

WCAT WORKING GROUP

Notice of Meeting Minutes: WCAT WORKING GROUP
February 21, 2024 – 6:00PM
24 Hemlock Road and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM

Members Present: Steve Maio, Kevin Gill, Brian McCoubrey, Aimee Forsythe, Michael McLane, David Watts, and Paul Norman

Members Absent: Bill Reading

WCAT Attendees Present: Ian McDermott

1. Status of Income Stream Legislation

Brian McCoubrey related the status of State and Federal income stream legislation. The State bill is currently in committee and won't be released from the committee until June 14, 2024 at the earliest. The federal legislation seems to be slated for April 2024.

2. High School Relocation

Steve Maio related that the new High School space was comparable or slightly larger than the existing studio space as delineated at the recently held "Page Turning" meeting of the new High School plans. The cost to WCAT is still estimated at \$260,000 but there are many variables including whether the cable providers will charge for the fiber connections to the new school. At this point the impression is that WCAT personnel will be issued school FOBS to access other parts of the building.

3. High School Programs and cost discussions

Ian related that the estimated costs of WCAT services if the groups were to hire commercial vendors would be \$763,000 for calendar 2022 and \$673,000 for calendar 2023. Approximately 40% is for School related programs.

4. Podcast Revenues and Expenses

The 9C cuts at the state have affected WCAT revenues as the Mass partnership for Youth has decreased its activity from \$22,000 in calendar 2023 to an anticipated \$12,000 in calendar 2024. A discussion also ensued surrounding membership and different levels of contributions.

5. Ultimate Goal of Working Group

A conversation ensued regarding the question about what is the ultimate goal of the working group. A consensus seems to be coalescing around the following:

- A. WCAT adds value to the community
- B. WCAT needs to be sustainability in the face of declining traditional revenues and should investigate other revenue sources
- C. Options for Town Funding need to be explored when/if there is a shortfall aka an "insurance Policy"
- D. Other support from the Town needs to be explored i.e. grant writing and marketing
- E. This group needs to make a recommendation to Town Council.

1. Steve Maio and Kevin Gill to review and present a recommendation at next meeting.



6. Motion to approve minutes of the January 24th meeting by Brian McCoubrey seconded by Paul Norman and so voted.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for March 13, 2024 @ 6:30PM at WCAT Studios ad Zoom.

Motion to adjourn at 7:48 PM by Mike McLane seconded by Paul Norman and so voted unanimously.