

NGTV Technical Report for Cable TV Committee Meeting of 10/17/2024

Equipment issues:

1. TriCaster Mini X production system: The system has been reliable over the past year except for occasional failure of cameras to connect at startup. This is worked around by re-plugging the camera's ethernet connector to the video switch. However, if the room temperature is set to 72 degrees and boxes are positioned too close to it, it may overheat and restart, interrupting recording. The subject box was removed and the temperature maintained at about 68 degrees on the control room heat pump during the warm season (other seasons the heat pump is turned off), avoiding the overheating. The recordings (on the Castus video server) are then combined (by a Castus Cuts project) into a single VOD file with brief black gaps between the segments, representing about 2 minutes of the meeting not being recorded.
2. Recording, streaming, cablecasting: The Castus QuickCast video server recorded, streamed and telecast meetings reliably, requiring only meeting scheduling and post processing of each meeting. The feed to Spectrum remains at standard definition letter-boxed, awaiting eventual upgrade to high definition per a new franchise agreement.
3. Meeting archival: Meetings are stored on the QuickCast and on a RAID drive retained from the previous video server system and doubled in capacity. Meetings from 2018 to 2023 are on the initial 2TB hard drives which have been removed from the RAID and stored separately. Subsequent meetings are archived periodically on a new set of 2TB hard drives in the RAID unit (M: on the PC). The second RAID unit (R: on the PC) contains archived non-meeting video files.
4. Camcorders: The "red" DV-tape camcorder no longer records to tape but is still usable as a camera for remote meetings. Although it appears to record, the content is not written to the tape, so should not be used as a recorder. The head-cleaner cassette does not correct the failure.
5. Presentation interface: Although the wireless ClickShare dongle needs no special action when plugged into a Windows laptop, the Apple laptops used by the School Board require configuration in order to connect to our ClickShare receiver. The MSAD#15 IT director provided instructions for configuration, of which the control room retains a copy.
6. The Control PC has been replaced with a Windows 11-capable PC.
7. Video editing station: This remains as it was for standard definition editing but works for high definition video from the camcorders, although with multi-track monitoring the audio stutters. That can be worked around.
The printer used for labeling the recorded DVDs has not been used since before 2020 and needs replacement of its ink cartridges (~\$60) in order to work.

New purchases:

1. Sony headphones (\$100)
2. Headphone ear pads (\$21)
3. Hard drive storage boxes (10, \$65)

Extra activities:

1. Patti and Richard recorded the Historical Society presentations: "(10/19/23 BC presentation)", "Memories and Milestones" and captured the videos for editing.
2. Patti edited the Casco Bay Trail Alliance program and "Poland Shakers" presentation.

3. William and Richard recorded (at the AMVETS Hall) and edited the Public Hearing on zoning changes.
4. Patti, William, Mark and Richard recorded the annual Town Meeting at Memorial School.
5. Patti and Richard recorded, captured and partially edited Semi-quincentennial events: Bean supper, Spoken Word Stage, yard sales, garden tours, church history tours, parade/community fair.
6. Upon request by the School Board chairman, Richard provided a separate video clip from a School Board meeting video, using the VLC video player.
7. To document functions he performs, Richard has started workflow instructions for retrieval of archived meetings from the stored hard drives and for post-processing of meeting video files.

Anticipated purchases:

1. Complete set of printer ink cartridges (\$60).

Anticipated activities:

1. Continuation of editing of “Black History in Maine”.
2. Continuation of video editing of unfinished Historical Society presentations and Semi-quincentennial events, using the Kdenlive editor.

Weekend programming Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 7:00 am & pm:

1. Annual Town Meeting
2. Special Select Board Meeting
3. Select Board and Finance Committee Meetings (with Department Heads)
4. Select Board Budget Workshops
5. Joint Workshop: Select Board, Planning Board and LMPC
6. Planning Board Public Hearing and Meeting
7. NGHHS presentations, “Poland Hill Shakers”, “Traditional Shaker Cooking”, “Arlington National Cemetery”, “Narcissus Restoration Project”, “Donald MacMillan, Arctic Explorer”, “Our Barns: A History of the Barns of Maine”, “Skiing in Maine”, “World War I, Maine and a Local Hero”, “Stevens Brook Pond”, “Gold Star Mother Pilgrimages”, “The Masons of New Gloucester”, “New Gloucester World War II Veterans”, “Bartlett Adams: Stone Cutter”, “Fifty Years of New Gloucester Woodworking”, “Halifax Disaster”, “Narcissus Restoration Project”, “The Portland-Lewiston Interurban”
8. Merriment at Plow Day
9. Skyline Farm Plow Day 2018
10. Preserving Horse-Drawn Vehicles
11. Whirling Coat Tails Featuring the Don Roy Trio

Weekend Meeting rebroadcast Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 5:00 pm.:

Cable TV, Water District Trustees, Public Safety, Economic Development, Semi-quincentennial

Latest meeting rebroadcasts at 10:00 am.:

Sunday, Wednesday: Select Board

Monday, Thursday: Planning Board

Tuesday, Friday: Land Management Planning Committee
Saturday: MSAD #15 School Board

Additional rebroadcasts at 2:00 pm.:

Friday – Sunday: Budget Committee, Capital Improvement Plan Committee meetings