

Meeting Minutes
Genesee Technology Committee
March 7, 2007 8:15 AM
Oxley

Attendees:

Jay Janzen, Don Lohman, Gary McKay (chair), Chris Midyet, John Recca

Discussion:

Email services

John Recca presented information about IntelliContact, a web-based email service that facilitates group emails and surveys.

The cost starts at \$8/month, including a 20% discount for nonprofit organizations. That allows 500 email addresses and approximately 3,000 emails to be sent.

Gary McKay had contacted IntelliContact personnel to discuss how their service would work for our needs. He signed up for a free 15-day trial at IntelliContact and provided the logon information for other committee members to try. IntelliContact offered to extend the trial period. Mr. McKay distributed a list of the features from their website.

Mr. Recca indicated that the Communications Committee would be putting an article in the Genescene to solicit people's interest in receiving email communications.

There was discuss about how people's email addresses could be added to distribution lists, setting up standard formats for email, and clearly stating that emails were from the Genesee Foundation to increase acceptance.

The IntelliContact service can also do electronic surveys, including compilation of results. Each survey is treated as an email for purposes of billing, so the cost is minimal.

Electronic surveys

Web-based services exist for this, such as Survey Monkey and Zoomerang, however it was agreed that we should try to do it through IntelliContact if that service proves to work well for both email and surveys.

Channel 8

It was noted that there is still some audio and visual noise.

There was discussion about the usefulness of channel 8 to the community, including mention of FCC restrictions. Jay Janzen questioned whether the FCC significantly restricts it and will send related information.

Webcam

Mr. McKay explained that the webcam issue became a high priority in order for the staff to provide good snow removal service by starting to plow in the early morning hours when appropriate. Without security personnel to call staff, the camera is needed for them to determine whether to come up early. At its January 10 meeting, the board requested that Messrs. McKay and Stanton assist staff with procuring a webcam for up to \$5,000 to meet the staff's request. A high-quality Sony camera with pan, tilt, & zoom was purchased and is installed on the Vista Clubhouse.

The webcam is currently used only by staff to assess the need for plowing. It will be linked to the website in the near future to show views to the west.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled in four to six weeks.

The agenda will include further discussion of the email service, website improvements, staff's technology needs and plans, and status of the cataloging of past Genescenes. (Carla Andrews and Ryan Babcock should attend to address the last two items.)

Other business

Mr. McKay asked Mr. Recca if he would like to join the committee and he accepted.

To Do:

- All members: try the IntelliContact service to see how well it works for email and surveys
- All members: look at the website and create a list of suggestions
- Gary McKay: Investigate channel 8 noise problem
- John Recca: investigate other options to do email by discussing it with some experts that he knows in the field.
- Jay Janzen: send info about FCC restrictions