

WOMR/WFMR Program Committee

Minutes – August 19, 2026

Meeting Format: Remote via Zoom

Attendees: John Braden, Matthew “Matty” Dunn, Paula Erickson, Mike Fee (Chair), Maureen “Moe” Keane-Bottino, Denya LeVine, Bud Pyatak, Andy Rahorcsak, Georgene “Gigi” Riedl, Jon Rimbach, Fran Sullivan, Ira Wood

Guest: Nate Locke

Meeting called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Prior Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the July 15, 2026 minutes.

Andy requested that future minutes identify committee members who provide regrets when unable to attend. The committee agreed, and a **Regrets** line will be included in future minutes as applicable.

Program Transitions

Saturday Evening Programming

Mike DeMale concluded his temporary Saturday evening program after two regularly scheduled shows, leaving two Saturday 9:00 p.m.–midnight slots open each month. Brewster Brownville (DJ Malcontent) previously relinquished his Saturday shift but continues his regular monthly Wednesday program.

The open Saturday shifts have been covered by substitutes, including Rachel Ferer, Scott Burau and Jeffrey Berg, while permanent programming is considered.

Cape Cod Baseball League Broadcasts

The Cape Cod Baseball League broadcast season concluded August 9. Matty characterized the first season as challenging but worthwhile, with a strong overall product and positive listener feedback. Committee members also emphasized the value of carrying programming connected to an important Cape institution.

Building on the technical and scheduling lessons discussed at the July meeting, the committee agreed that a post-season discussion with the league would be useful to identify improvements should WOMR continue the broadcasts in 2027. The station will also review available streaming data as one indicator of listener interest. Participation will be revisited in the spring.

New DJs and Training

- **Zoe Simmons** – Zoe, a rising senior at Nauset Regional High School, has completed an intake and studio session. Her first scheduled program is August 29 from 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m., with Cat Williams serving as mentor. She has also expressed interest in picking up other available shifts.
- **Chris Nodle** – Referred to the station by former Board President Seth Rolbein. Chris has made several station visits and has been enthusiastic and engaged in training. Matty expects him to progress quickly.
- **Jennifer Marshall-Torres** – Initial contact has been made; an orientation interview has not yet taken place.

Programming Proposals and Decisions

Mosquito Story Hour – Ethan Hirschenfeld and Vanessa Vartabedian

The committee discussed a proposal from Ethan Hirschenfeld and Vanessa Vartabedian for a storytelling program based on the established Mosquito Story Hour format.

Members were generally enthusiastic about the concept but discussed concerns regarding the proposed weekly frequency, availability of hour-long program slots, and the technical and production demands of a live call-in format. The committee also discussed the advantages of prerecorded programming, including the ability to edit stories for length and quality.

Rather than approve a regular program at this time, the committee recommended that Ethan and Vanessa prepare a **30-minute prerecorded pilot** for review. A regular schedule, frequency and time slot can be considered after the pilot is evaluated.

Saturday Evening Programming – Rachel Ferer, Phil Fournier and Chris Tansey

The committee considered Rachel Ferer, Phil Fournier and Chris Tansey for the two open monthly Saturday evening shifts.

Rachel, a former WOMR student programmer who recently returned to the station, has been regularly filling substitute shifts and has received very positive feedback. Committee members praised both her on-air presence and the distinctive mix of music she brings to the schedule.

Phil has completed training and is independently picking up shifts. While his progress and music selection were viewed positively, the committee felt additional airtime would allow him to continue developing confidence and experience.

Chris remains very new to the station and has completed only a small number of shifts. The committee encouraged him to continue gaining experience and seek future openings.

Following discussion, Ira moved that Rachel be offered **two Saturday evening shifts per month**. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Program Reviews

Sixteen programmer evaluation letters previously reviewed by the committee are ready for distribution.

An additional **22 programmers have submitted self-evaluations but are still awaiting evaluations from assigned Program Committee members**. Matty will redistribute the updated list and committee assignments so members can complete the outstanding reviews.

Programmers who have not submitted self-evaluations by Labor Day will be reviewed regardless. The goal is to make substantial progress on the outstanding committee reviews during the next several weeks and complete the overall evaluation process by the annual meeting in November.

Other Business

Programmer Disciplinary Letters

The disciplinary letters previously reviewed and approved by the committee have been distributed to the programmers involved. No responses had been received as of the meeting.

Community Affairs Programming

Development of the proposed community affairs program continued, with Scott Burau emerging as the likely lead host. Matty and Mike reported being encouraged by Scott's preparation and interest in developing a program centered on interviews with local figures of civic, political, cultural and historical significance.

The developing concept could combine several elements within a half-hour program:

- A longer interview with a local community figure.
- Short news contributions from young journalists associated with the *Provincetown Independent*.
- Potential short-form commentary or contributions from Seth Rolbein.

- Shared hosting or production support involving Scott, Matty, Mike and potentially John Braden to make a weekly program sustainable.

The committee discussed the importance of beginning with a manageable format and workload while leaving room for the program to develop over time. Scott is expected to serve as the principal host, with others potentially providing periodic backup.

A weekday **9:00 a.m.** slot is being considered. Monday was discussed as potentially better aligned with the *Provincetown Independent's* publication schedule; Pandora Peoples' former Thursday 9:00 a.m. slot also remains a possibility. No final day or time slot was selected.

The committee was supportive of continuing development of the concept.

Next Meeting

The next Program Committee meeting is scheduled for **September 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** The meeting is planned as a hybrid meeting at the Congregational Church in Wellfleet with remote participation available.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jon Rimbach, Program Committee Clerk, with AI-assisted transcription review and drafting.