

FIVE TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Representing the Towns of Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Sheffield and Stockbridge

Minutes
December 11, 2012
6:00pm
Sheffield Town Hall
Sheffield, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller, Chair, Great Barrington
Steve Moritz, Lee
Richard-Scott Burow, Stockbridge
Thomas Hatch – Great Barrington
David Parker - Lee

Others Present: John Mucha, Time Warner
John Fogarty, Time Warner
Nick Ring – CTSB
Denise Curtin – Recording Secretary

6:00pm Chairman Miller called the meeting to order.

QUORUM: 3 towns present constitutes a quorum and 4 of the 5 towns are here.

MINUTES: September - Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was made and to approve as submitted. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

- John Mucha from Time Warner presented the Time Warner report.
- Steve Moritz – committee member from Lee asked about a recent law that was passed regarding scrambling of service. John Mucha has not heard of anything yet.
 - John assured the committee that converter boxes will be available to subscribers for free until December 2014.
 - Suggestion was made that Time Warner give subscribers at least a two month notice to let people know that they only have until December 2014 to acquire these converter boxes.
 - After the deadline Time Warner will be charging a nominal fee for the boxes.
- Steve also mentioned that the NBA League Pass email with the schedule has been wrong.
 - Time Warner is not responsible for these emails/scheduling notification and that In Demand sends these out. John asked that the email with the schedule be sent to him so that he may review.
- Thomas Hatch asked about Channel 5(ABC) being blocked. Time Warner is mandated by law to follow what WTEN gives them for programming. Time Warner is working on some resolutions through the FCC to resolve this issue.

- Program guide freezing – unplugging seems to fix it. One committee member said he got a new box and it has fixed the problem.
- Customer Service – Subscribers are upset that when they call with questions regarding programming that the customer service team at Time Warner states they are only able to help them if they have a billing question or technical problems. They suggest searching the website for answers as there is a tremendous amount of information there.
- Stockbridge Resident Connection
- As per the report from Time Warner they have surveyed the location and sent a letter to the resident which details the cost they would need to pay to be connected.
- Richard Scott-Burow is the committee member from Stockbridge and indicated that the Board of Selectmen in Stockbridge does not agree that the resident should have to pay to lay the cable on this public road.
- There are ample poles available to provide service to the residence. It is Time Warner’s position to not use the existing poles.
- John Fogarty – Legal Counsel for Time Warner approached the committee and indicated that Time Warner believes they are correct and consistent with the existing contract.
- Discussion ensued regarding the existing contract that states that under section 3.4 the residence must be 200 aerial feet of the cable plant and this residence is more than 200’ from cable plant.
- Time Warner legal counsel is willing to meet and engage discussions with the town regarding this situation.

“Motion made by Mr. Burow that the committee request Time Warner to re-consider their position and hook-up the Aronoff’s as a standard installation and not incur the total cost, seconded by Mr. Hatch and passed unanimously.”

“Motion made by Mr. Parker that this committee will support the Town of Stockbridge should the Board of Selectmen put Time Warner on notice in the pursuit of legal action, seconded by Mr. Moritz and passed unanimously.”

CTSB Report –

Nick Ring, Operation Managers for CTSB presented report.

- Technical issues experienced recently have been successfully repaired.
- CTSB is in need of volunteers and donations.
- They provide community events and have limited staff now.
- They will provide the equipment and training to anyone who would like to join them.
- They can contact them at 413-243-8211 or email at info@ctsbvtv.org

OLD BUSINESS –

- Broadband Initiative Progress
- No recent news
- Fiber Optic has been installed on Rt. 7, excluding the last mile which is still in discussion as to how to proceed.
- This must be completed by end of June 2013 or funding will be lost.

Field Trip

- We are still looking for a date for as many members as possible to travel to see Time Warner headquarters in western New York State.
- Linda Miller will send email to find out how many are interested in going and what dates would be best for everyone.

New Business

- No new business to report

Other Business

- There will be a full committee special meeting in late January to review draft of contract.
- Committee will be able to send to towns for review after this meeting.
- Town of Stockbridge has requested that their town attorney review prior to approval.

Next scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:00pm in Lenox.

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Curtin

Recording Secretary