

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

Minutes
March 12, 2013
6:00pm
Lenox Town Hall
Lenox, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller, Chair, Great Barrington
Steven Moritz, Lee
Thomas Hatch – Great Barrington
John Londoner - Sheffield

Others Present: John Mucha, Time Warner
Leo Mahoney – CTSB
Denise Curtin – Recording Secretary

6:05pm Chairman Miller called the meeting to order.

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

MINUTES: Steven Moritz moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December 11, 2012 meeting and to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Tom Hatch. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW MEMBER: John Londoner from Sheffield was introduced to all in attendance.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

- John Mucha from Time Warner presented the Time Warner report.
- License Renewal – Negotiations have been concluded and new agreement to the 5 Towns' Boards of Selectmen are underway. Stockbridge was presented last night, Monday, March 11th. Great Barrington will be on Wednesday, March 13th and the other 3 towns will be completed next week.
- Form 500 – Annual Form 500 was filed with the State and the Towns at the end of January.
- Stockbridge Residential Connection – The Town of Stockbridge has determined that the location discussed at the last meeting of the committee is on a private road and not a town road. Time Warner will work directly with the resident to provide cable service to them on an individual basis.
- Analog/Digital Transition – Progress still underway to have all subscribers with digital access by the end of 2014.
 - Digital adapters are still available for free until the end of next year, at which time all subscribers will be charged a .99 p/month fee.
- Community Action – Time Warner provided the UCP Telethon, produced by PCTV, to all of Berkshire County.
- Steve Moritz stated that a subscriber in Great Barrington is not a sports fan, and is concerned that by Time Warner having sports networks inflates the price to all.

CTSB Report –

Leo Mahoney, Station Manager for CTSB presented report.

- The company is still in the process of looking to relocate in the next year. They are collecting competitive bids for construction. CTSB will not purchase the piece of property at this time. Board of Director's has requested a more detailed plan before investing in any property.
- CTSB Annual Meeting will be held on May 2, 2013 at 7:00pm at the CTSB studio. The public is invited to attend.
- Annual 2011-2012 audit is underway and will be submitted to the 5 Town's at the completion in June.
- Student Video Contest entries will be accepted through May 20, 2013. Theme of this year's contest is "Anything Goes" and there will be \$1,500 prize money, funded through sales of Shakespeare dvd's. Contest rules can be found on the company website, ctsbtv.org.
- CTSB is in need of volunteers and donations.
- CTSB received 1 complaint from a Lee resident that there were no local sports this year. The recruitment campaign for next year will begin earlier and requests will be sent out as soon as school is back in session in the fall of 2013. This is not limited to students, anyone can volunteer. Training is provided.
- CTSB Contract Agreement
- Changes in content:
 - Contract will now go to a 5 year contract. Motion made by Steven Moritz, seconded, passed unanimously.
 - Definition of channel changed because of digital channels now. Changed the definition to match Time Warner contract. Motion made by Steven Moritz, seconded, passed unanimously.
 - Motion made by Chairman Linda Miller to recommend the passage as written, of the contract between CTSB and the Five Towns for PEG Access channels and operations based on our knowledge of the agreement which is a good and fair agreement and that the Boards of Selectmen of the 5 towns accept and ratify the contract when received from CTSB. Seconded by Steven Moritz. Unanimously passed.
- Committee thanked Leo for getting the contract together.

OLD BUSINESS -

- Broadband Initiative progressing in other South Berkshire towns and it is anticipated that it will be up and running in June. They are currently running informational shows and holding meetings.

NEW BUSINESS -

No new business to report.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN -

Chairman Linda Miller nominated Steven Moritz to become the new Chairman of the 5 Town Cable Advisory Committee. Steven Moritz accepted the nomination. Seconded by Tom Hatch and motion passed unanimously. Linda will retain chairman of sub-committee through the new contract presentations.

Linda and Steve will work out the transition prior to the June meeting.

Steven expressed his thanks on behalf of the committee for the incredible amount of time and hard work that Linda has put forth for this committee.

Chairman Miller made an appeal to anyone who might be interested in serving on this committee. There are vacancies on the committee for all 5 towns. This is a great way to contribute to your community.

Next scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 6:00pm in Lee.

Motion made by Tom Hatch to adjourn.

Motion seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Curtin

Recording Secretary