

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

Minutes

September 11, 2012

6:00pm

Great Barrington Town Hall

Great Barrington, MA

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

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

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

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

Chairman Miller asked that Leo Mahoney from CTSB be able to present first due to another commitment that evening. John Mucha agreed.

CTSB REPORT –

- Leo Mahoney from CTSB presented the report.
- Report was previously sent to the board for review.
- Highlights of the report:
- Board President, Jack Hoffmire will be taking a leave of absence for approximately 4 months and is expected back sometime in January.
 - Acting Vice-President, Seth Kershner from Lee will be stepping in as President.
 - Leo will send contact info for Seth to all board members.
- The regular quarterly CTSB meetings will be moved to the last Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at the studio.
- CTSB will no longer be paying for sports announcing at high school sporting events.
 - CTSB has sent letters out to each of the school's principals and athletic directors to see if there is any interest in having students volunteer to do producing and announcing of their high school games.
 - CTSB will work with the schools to train student volunteers. Training would be good credentials for college resumes.
 - CTSB's mission is to train for the community – not to pay for announcers and broadcasting.
 - If there is no interest from the schools, there will be no broadcast of high school sporting events.

- CTSB experienced connection problems with the last 2 live Lenox broadcasts due to poor picture quality. Playbacks aired fine. Issues were repaired.
- Lee Founders Day Parade will be broadcast live. This multi-camera event starts at 11am on CTSB-TV channel 16.
- Channel 17 & 18 – Selectmen’s meetings are airing on both stations as they are waiting on a part to make repairs to the server.
- Volunteers needed at CTSB. No experience needed.
- Donations are always appreciated.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

- John Mucha from Time Warner was present to give the report and to answer questions.

Connections -

- A formal request for service was received from a resident in Stockbridge. John will report back to the board when he has more information from the Construction group.
- Installation scheduled to begin this week for 324 Park Street, Great Barrington.

Guide -

- Customer reported issues with the program guide and techs were sent to the home. Many board members also expressed problems in all of the towns. John requested addresses of the other locations where people are having problems and he will look into it.
- If the board receives complaints please advise customers to report problems.

Beinsport -

- Time Warner is presently in discussions to carry this channel.

License Renewal –

- Two more meetings scheduled through the end of the year.

Advertising –

- Member William Sample - “kudos” to your advertising. Asked if there was any way to incorporate something to help CTSB recruit volunteers.

HBO Go Format -

- Any plans for this to move to the television side? John has not heard anything but will ask.

Analog to Digital Changes –

- Letters sent to customers and local franchise authorities with the next phase of the transition.

No further questions and thanked John Mucha for attending.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Chairman Miller contacted the Attorney General's office regarding the Hearing Impaired Open Meeting law.
- At this time the Attorney General is not aware of this. Stated it may possibly be ADA compliance.
- Issue will be tabled until further information is available.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Broadband progress –
 - Expected to be up and running by June 2013 or funding will be lost.
 - Several towns have been wired, but no timeframe of connecting of town halls and other areas cited as community based locations.
- Field Trip
 - Will try and plan between now and end of this year based on calendar availability.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- There are still plenty of openings on the committee for the 5 towns we serve.
- Great Barrington is the only town that has all 3 seats filled. All other towns have 1 or more openings.
- Anyone interested may apply at the Selectmen's office of your town.

The next meeting will be held on December 11, 2012 in Sheffield at 6:00pm.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Curtin
Recording Clerk