

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

Minutes
September 8, 2015
6:00pm
Sheffield Town Hall
Sheffield, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller –Lenox
Tom Hatch – Great Barrington
Steven Moritz – Lee
David Parker - Lee
John Londoner - Sheffield

Others Present: John Fogarty – Time Warner Cable
Thomas Cohan – Charter Communication
Leo Mahoney – CTSB
William Barth - Resident
Denise Curtin – Recording Secretary

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

MINUTES: John Londoner moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 9, 2015 meeting and to accept the minutes as submitted with no changes. Seconded by Tom Hatch. The motion carried unanimously.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

- John Fogarty presented the report.
- John followed up with some issues that were from the June meeting.
- DVR recordings being a few minutes off either at the beginning or the end of programming.
 - John stated that DVR recordings are based on the guide info. He suggested that when setting up your recording to start a minute or two prior, and end a minute or two later to ensure the beginning and end of the programming is captured.
- Viewing PEG channels.
 - PEG channels without TWC equipment are reliant on having digital TV.
 - If the customer does not have the proper Time Warner equipment or digital TV these channels cannot be seen.
- Scanning capabilities to get what you need.
 - Leo Mahoney, from CTSB, said that there is a video on the CTSB website on how to do the necessary scanning to get the channels. If the customer is still having a problem he suggested calling him and he would walk them through the process.
- Line extension issue.
 - Work should be underway and installed within 45 days.
 - Linda questioned as to the 45 days being longer than our agreement.

- The house is in West Stockbridge but where the line and pole come in is in Great Barrington/Housatonic.
- When this is hooked up he will be in Great Barrington and will receive PEG channels from Great Barrington.
- John Leoni, installation tech, has been in touch with the resident regarding the installation.
- Fiber Optic.
 - Information about the amount of money for fiber installations and estimates are accurate.
 - Leo Mahoney is ready to set up the schedule.
 - Leo emailed Melinda Poore from Time Warner giving her the schedule.
 - Sheffield will be done first, then Great Barrington, then Lee and Lenox. Stockbridge has already been done.
 - Has anyone notified the Sheffield Senior Center that they are getting fiber optic?
 - Leo said once installation is complete CTSB will be able to do live broadcasts there.
 - Any other information will be passed on to John Londoner.
- Intermittent freezing & tiling.
 - John Fogarty indicated that he was not aware of any systemic problems.
 - This is happening in at least 2 of the towns.
 - Members indicated that it is not on the same channel and sometimes the audio is blocked out and sometimes the audio just drops out.
 - John requested that the subscriber record the day, time, channel so that they can research the problem. He also asked Linda Miller to put in a service call for her home.
- Customer compliments.
 - Received 4 from Great Barrington, 1 from Sheffield, 3 from Lenox, 1 from Lee and 1 from Stockbridge.
- Time Warner merger with Charter Communications.
 - Time Warner has entered into an agreement to merge the parent company franchise with Charter Communications and will operate across the country. They anticipate the merger closing at the end of year.
 - John introduced Tom Cohan, Director of Government Affairs for Charter in New England and New York.
 - Charter proposes to assume properties of Time Warner franchises.
 - No changes are expected to be made in the agreements.
 - All 5 towns have the exact same franchise agreements and Charter has to abide by all agreements.
 - Charter covers 53 cities and towns in Massachusetts. 3 towns in the Berkshires are not typical Charter properties.
 - Charter is known for its' broadband and their base internet speed is 60 mHz.
 - Tom Rutledge, a former Time Warner executive, has been at Charter and has made significant changes.
 - Charter has brought all of their call centers back to the United States and will be looking to bring Time Warner call centers to the U.S. to increase U.S. jobs.
 - Steve Moritz asked if we would now become part of the Massachusetts market and Tom said no, we will still be in the Albany broadcast market.
 - Linda spoke with Michael Mael of the DTC, regarding the merger and if we need to do anything? If the committee is in agreement with no objections we can tell the towns they need to do nothing. If no action is taken then it will be automatically approved.
 - If we don't have any objections, there is no need for public hearings.

The following resolution was read by Linda Miller. Some wording changes were requested by John Fogarty and were agreed upon and amended.

Motion to accept the resolution as amended was made by Steve Mortiz and seconded by John Londoner. Motion passed unanimously.

**FIVE TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION W/CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS INC.**

Adopted Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Whereas Charter Communications Inc. (Charter) has entered into an agreement with Time Warner Cable Inc. (TWC) whereby they will ultimately merge into a new entity that will bear the name of Charter Communication Inc., and

Whereas Charter delivered to the Member towns, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Sheffield and Stockbridge, Massachusetts (the Towns), of the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee (the CAC) copies of their application to transfer control of the existing Franchise Licenses from TWC to the new entity, and

Whereas Charter stated their legal financial, and technical qualifications to control the franchises as set forth in their FCC Form 394, *Application for Franchise Authority Consent to Assignment or Transfer of Control of Cable Television Franchise*, dated July 1, 2015 and received by the Towns thereafter, which the CAC finds satisfied the requirements, and

Whereas in the recent past Public Hearings having had no one in attendance at such hearings from the public who spoke to the subject of the hearings,

We therefore resolve, and affirm, that control of the Franchises may be assigned to Charter and confirm that no further action is required by the Towns at this juncture.

CTSB REPORT

- Leo Mahoney was present to give report.
- Audits are completed and will be sent to the Town Administrators.
- The financial audit should be available on the website this week.
- CTSB was present at the Great Barrington Fly-In and will be the upcoming Lee Founders Day.
- CTSB has donated their studio space for the third consecutive year to the Literacy Network of Southern Berkshire. They use the space to produce an informational video which is shown at their annual gala on October 18th.
- CTSB has begun contacting local businesses seeking underwriting support. Per CAC rules we must notify the CAC of any new fundraising activities.
- Coral Cook, administrative assistant has left and we welcomed Nicole Hall to our company.
- Nick Diller, part-time videographer has retired from over 10 years of working with us.
- Linda Miller requested volunteers and donations for CTSB.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Steve Moritz brought up the Channel 5 “Boston” channel and not being able to receive this channel. He wanted a resolution to this issue before our next meeting in 3 months.
- Linda Miller suggested forming a sub-committee to address this.
- Steve Moritz agreed to be the chairman of the committee and John Londoner will work with him.

NEW BUSINESS –

Town of Great Barrington passed a resolution and was certified by the Attorney General regarding Citizen speak time needs to be on the agenda.

Next meeting of the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:30PM at the Lenox Town Hall in Lenox, MA.

Motion made by John Londoner to adjourn. Motion seconded by Tom Hatch and motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Curtin
Recording Secretary