

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

Minutes
December 14, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Stockbridge Town Hall
50 Main Street
Stockbridge, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller, Chair, Great Barrington
Thomas Hatch, Great Barrington
Robert O'Haver, Great Barrington
Malcolm Chisholm, Lee
Steve Moritz, Lee
Paul O'Brien, Sheffield
George Oleen, Sheffield
Joseph Kellogg, Lenox
Richard Burow, Stockbridge
Stephen Miller, Stockbridge

Others Present: John Mucha, Time Warner
Leo Mahoney, CTSSB
Michael Mael, Department of Telecommunications
Rhonda LaBombard, Recording Clerk

Members of the Public

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order and determined that all five towns were represented.

MINUTES: Mr. Kellogg moved to waive the reading of the minutes from the September 14, 2010 meeting and to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Chisholm. The motion carried unanimously.

STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MINUTES: Ms. Miller stated that there are still some outstanding minutes.

TIME WARNER REPORT: John Mucha, Director of Government Relations for Time Warner was present for the report and to answer questions.

NBA League Pass: Mr. Mucha stated that changes that will allow access will be made by the end of December.

Fiber Break: Mr. Mucha stated that there was a fiber break between Lenox and CTSSB, which was spliced and is now working

Rates: Mr. Mucha stated that rate cards with an updated channel line up will be sent to residents with their bills.

East Main Street Stockbridge Question: Brad Morrison was present to inquire about installation of service to his residence on East Main Street in Stockbridge. He was told by Time Warner that it would cost several thousand dollars and could not be installed until after the first of the year. Mr. Mucha took Mr. Morrison's contact information and will look into the situation.

Questions/Comments: A question regarding Hartford and Springfield station access. Mr. Mucha explained that obtaining specific stations in certain areas is out of Time Warner's control.

Mr. Chisholm stated that he recently had work completed in his home. The entire house had to be rewired. He received great service from customer service and the technician sent to complete the work.

Mr. Oleen inquired about his bill that did not reflect a discount when his internet service was down. Mr. Mucha advised him to contact customer service to discuss the credit.

Mr. Moritz discussed a problem with a delayed start when using the DVR. Discussion ensued regarding this issue. Mr. Mucha stated that this was a known issue and it should have been taken care of at the end of last week.

Discussion ensued regarding the guide, which often does not state which game will be carried until the day before the game. Mr. Mucha said that the guide is carried by a private vendor and Time Warner cannot control this issue.

Mr. Moritz said that the NBA Pass now carries the NY Knicks and thanked Mr. Mucha.

Discussion ensued regarding the blackout of sports games and the availability of MSG channel. Mr. Moritz expressed his concern with purchasing the NBA pass and having games blacked out and not having the ability to watch the game on an alternate channel. Mr. Mucha said that he would look into this issue and explained why this happens. Some of the team contracts do not allow the games to be shown in all locations. Chairman Miller will work on the issue of blackouts for the Red Sox and Patriot games.

Annual Survey: The annual survey has been completed. There were 7 compliments and 1 complaint regarding analog to digital transmission problems.

Mr. Mucha left the meeting.

CTSB REPORT: Leo Mahoney, Station Manager of CTSB was present to give the report. The Shakespeare fundraiser was a success and exceeded last year. Mr. Mahoney thanked all the volunteers involved.

Mr. Mahoney said that CTSB plans on taping 8 basketball games from the local high schools and stated that any school event may be submitted to CTSB for inclusion in their schedule.

There is currently an opening for a part time camera operator. Anyone interested should contact CTSB.

Mr. Mahoney discussed the following complaints: a lightning strike that interrupted service in Lenox, a camera failure at a Lee School Committee meeting and a bad audio cable at a Board of Selectmen meeting in Lee.

CTSB's resolution agreement with all of the five cable towns will expire in April. Discussion ensued regarding extending the term of a new agreement. Mr. Hatch moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Chisholm. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the ability to televise live from the new senior center in Sheffield. Mr. Mahoney will contact Administrator Joseph Kellogg to further discuss this issue.

STATUS OF SHEFFIELD: Mr. O'Brien said that Sheffield will meet with Time Warner on Monday regarding their wire build out.

WIRED WEST: Mr. O'Haver explained that Wired West is a consortium of 50 towns that are not served or underserved by high speed internet. The Wired West plan is to bring fiber to every home in all of the Towns. Two Town Meeting votes are required to establish a municipal lighting plant form of operation. Discussion ensued regarding the financial issues associated with this program. Mr. O'Haver encouraged residents to attend their Town Meetings and vote in favor of the program. Information may be obtained from Wired_West.net.

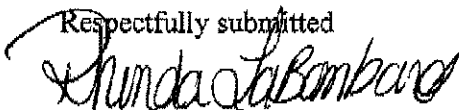
SUB COMMITTEE REPORT: The sub committee is working on the new cable agreement for 2013. A representative from the Department of Cable and Telecommunications was present explain the process for creating or renewing an agreement for cable services. Discussion ensued. Mr. Chisholm will draft a letter to Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli regarding support for a proposal that the cable provider ush provide service to the entire town. He will email a draft letter to all committee members for review.

OTHER BUSINESS: There are still open seats for Sheffield, Stockbridge and Lenox. Anyone interested should contact their Board of Selectmen.

The next meeting will be held in the Great Barrington Town Hall on March 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. O'Brien moved to adjourn the, seconded by Mr. Chisholm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted



Rhonda LaBombard
Recording Clerk