

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

Minutes
March 8, 2016
6:30pm
Stockbridge Town Offices
50 Main Street
Stockbridge, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller –Lenox
Steven Moritz – Lee
Russ Stein – Sheffield
William Lehman - Stockbridge

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

6:33pm Linda Miller called the meeting to order.
Quorum present. 4 towns represented.

MINUTES: Steve Moritz moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 8, 2015 meeting and to accept the minutes as submitted with no changes. Seconded by Russ Stein. The motion carried unanimously.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

Presented by John Fogarty

Melinda Poore and Shelley Winchenbach were unable to attend due to other commitments.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

- Discussion ensued regarding the Construction Fund.
- There has been some confusion around the Franchise Fee, Construction Fund and Capital Needs Fund. It was stated that in section 5.6(d) of the agreement that Time Warner would take 5% of the advertising and home shopping revenue and put it into the Construction Fund that would be used for the originations sites.
- There is currently approximately \$60,000 in this fund.
- The current monthly accrual is \$2,260.54/month based on the 2015 revenue.
- The money in the Capital Fund derives from a .19 cent surcharge from the subscriber monthly bills.
- It was noted that there is a surcharge on subscriber bills of .19 cents saying “PEG fee”.
- Agreed it should not be called a construction fund, but a “Capital Needs Fund” and remain “PEG fee on subscriber bills.”
 - John will look into changing the wording on the subscriber bills.
- This money is to be held in this separate Capital Fund strictly for CTSB to use as capital needs.
- Franchise Fee Worksheets for each town were included in the Time Warner report presented to the committee.
 - Committee requested that they receive the report aggregated, as well as each town when it becomes available.

- John indicated that these worksheets are normally sent with the checks.
- Construction of Fiber Optic is underway, however, it is a little later than was anticipated.
- 2 of the 5 towns are being held up by the Town. Leo Mahoney from CTSB is working with the town managers to get these issues rectified.
 - Great Barrington – wants to re-do their meeting room and location of box is in question.
 - Lenox – Requires boring that needs to be done under the road
 - Sheffield – Town Hall and Senior Center site surveys have been completed.
 - Lee – waiting on repairs being made to lines on East Street in Lenox, which is expected to be completed on March 9th.
 - This will get both Lee and Lenox schools back on-line.
 - Stockbridge already has fiber – new box has to be done inside the building.
- Election Debate Coverage –
 - Being carried by major networks.
 - Fox Business is carrying these, however, no one could find this channel.
 - John indicated that this station is channel 206 and is a digital channel.
 - It is part of the standard service, but not part of basic service.
- Senate and House debates we still don't have coverage as we are blacked out. And it is not just our 5 towns, but all of Berkshire County.
- John said that the FCC was supposed to come out with some new procedures and easier ways to challenge this. He will look into this and advise the committee.
- Tiling and Freezing –
 - Linda indicated that people are still experiencing this problem. The audio seems to have been repaired and it is now only video.
 - John asked for subscribers to log the specifics – date, time, channel, etc.
 - Linda provided this information to a technician and while there has been some improvement it is still not completely fixed.

PEG Access Channels -

- On digital sets you have to go to 1-18.1, 1-18.2 to locate these channels.
- Still complaints that subscribers are unable to locate the channels.
- Time Warner is unable to put a screen up letting people know where these channels are located.
- John will find out if a statement can be placed on the bill that would direct customers where to find these channels.

Charter Merger -

- Since last meeting in December there has been significant progress in getting the necessary consents for the merger.
- Still waiting on the FCC for Washington consents.
- Expectation is to be completed by end of 2nd quarter.
- Customers will still see it as Time Warner for now, but eventually will be switched over to Charter
- Many Time Warner people will be staying on.

Full Service outage on November 15, 2015

- If you want a credit for this outage you need to call.
- If anyone has problems getting credit let your committee member know and they will be happy to help you.

3-Year License Review

- Committee would like to do this review in conjunction with our meeting on September 13, 2016 in Great Barrington.
- The Public Notice for this meeting will have notification of the review.
- Time Warner must be present

CTSB REPORT:

Leo Mahoney, Station Manager presented the report; all members were given a copy of report.

CTSB has a new newsletter - Call Sheet

- This is sent to the membership and friends of CTSB twice a month. If you would like to get on the distribution list please let CTSB know by calling 413-243-8211 or sending an email.

CTSB 100+ club –

- This is to honor members who have produced over 100 shows.
- They are:
- Olga May Milligan
- Paul Kakley and students at Monument Mountain High School
- Matt Fillio and students at Lee High School
- Bobbie Glass
- Bob Balogh
- Deidre Consolati
- CTSB members and volunteers
- Alex Prisendorf

Guest Speaker Night –

- Thursday, April 7th CTSB will host the third Guest speaker night. This night will be with Jim Spieler, an After Effects artist will talk about the power of After Effects, an animation program from Adobe.

Membership –

- We have a total of 111 members
- Linda Miller would like everyone to know that memberships are always needed and it is fun, good community service and educational.
- Donations are always needed also.

Total Hours for Studio/Training/Editing/Class was 318 hours.

OLD BUSINESS –

- No old business.

NEW BUSINESS –

- The committee discussed last fall about creating a Facebook page but since that discussion nothing has taken place. Steve Moritz agreed to administer this.
- This is a good way to get feedback from people – we don't always have a lot of people attend the meetings.
- Agreed that the name would be 5 Town Cable Advisory Committee Berkshires
- We could ask WSBS to do a notification about the new page. They do free public service announcements. Leo said he could put a slide up to notify people of the new page.

RESOLUTION: The 5 Town Cable Advisory Committee will support a Facebook page for public service. Steve Mortiz made the motion to accept and the motion passed unanimously.

A new item was placed on the agenda/public notice for Other Business/Citizen Speak – no public attendance at this meeting.

MEETING LOCATIONS –

This meeting was supposed to be in Lee, however, an error was made at the last meeting stating that the meeting would be held in Stockbridge.

Next meeting of the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, June 14th, 2016 at 6:30PM at the Lee Town Hall in Lee, MA.

7:36pm Motion made by William Lehman to adjourn. Motion seconded by Steve Moritz and motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Curtin
Recording Secretary