

From: "Richard (Dick) Swee" <DickSwee@earthlink.net>
Subject: Northborough "cable" committee meeting minutes 1_5_11
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To: Nnac <nnac@yahoogroups.com>, "John W. Coderre" <jcoderre@town.northborough.ma.us>, Fran Bakstran <fbakstran@town.northborough.ma.us>, Dawn L Rand <drand@town.northborough.ma.us>
Cc: Michael Mael <michael.mael@state.ma.us>
▶ 1 Attachment, 74.8 KB



1- Participants:

Committee

- Bruce DeGraaf
 - Jeff Junker
 - Jim Murphy
 - Dick Swee - Chair
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- Kathy Dalgliesh - Director NCAT
 - Fran Bakstran - Selectman liaison
 - Michael Mael - Regulatory Analyst - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cable Advisory Group (Dept. of Telecommunications and Energy)

2- Charter and Verizon Status

A proposed change to the wording of the current Charter contract, which was recommended for approval by the committee, is still going through the public review process.

The wording replaces a formula for calculating "PEG Access Support" to a straight 3%. As a result, the straight 3% calculation will also be used with Verizon.

3- Charter Contract Renewal Planning

Michael Mael from Mass state government joined us and reviewed the process for renewing contracts. This information is very helpful and we thank Michael for taking time to meet with us.

Attached is the license renewal process guide Michael reviewed with us.

We discussed the fact that "TV Viewers" are moving to other IP-based technologies for viewing programs and movies and that this will likely end up reducing the town PEG support revenue based on the current definition of subscriber. Michael told us that New

York City has put language in their contract that prevents PEG money from dropping by more than a specific percent. This is one mechanism we could use in our contract renewal. Michael was also going to explore whether we can use a different definition of subscriber to “increase” PEG support funding.

So one aspect in contract renewal is defensive-- keep the PEG money from dropping. The other aspect is to look for ways to widen the subscriber definition so as to increase funding.

We also asked Michael to identify Massachusetts town contracts that could be viewed as good examples that had the most benefit for their towns. These contracts are then available on the state WEB site for us to use as examples.

Dick Swee
Chairman



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Richard (Dick) Swee
CELL NUMBER 508-981-7940
home 508-393-3245
EMAIL: DickSwee@earthlink.net
SKYPE: dickswее
230 Brewer St.
Northborough, MA. 01532
USA
