

TOWN OF PRINCETON, MA
Cable Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2016

CAC members in attendance: Darcy Rowell, Paul Caneen, Phil Gransewicz, R. Lane Ware, and alternate, David Hilton.

BoS in attendance: None

Advisory Board members in attendance: Wayne Adams

Guests: Town resident

Cable Advisory Committee Agenda:

Old Business

Approve Minutes

Discuss Old Business

Update research

Holden CAC

Sterling CAC

Westminster CAC

Rutland CAC

Greenfield

Website data caps

DTC

Review Language for IAR based on Sterling Renewal December 2008

Sections 3,4,7

New Business

Additional Research

Assign Tasks

Public Comment

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

Draft Minutes of October 26 Meeting were amended to review sections 3.4.and 7.

Motion to approve amended Minutes of October 26 Meeting was approved unanimously.

Holden CAC

Paul Gransewicz presented a written report of his meeting with the Holden CAC. Discussion centered around PEG and fees.

Language to authorize three channels for PEG, but not initiate will be incorporated in the appropriate sections.

The amount of fees and their use must be further researched as Phil reports that Holden CAC believes the fees may only be forthcoming if dedicated for specific uses such as PEG.

Establishment of Town website for use without PEG was discussed as well as its features and data caps. To be addressed in appropriate sections.

Sterling

Darcy Rowell reported on her discussions with Chris Detsikas, Executive Director of Lancaster/Sterling Cable TV.

Sterling stressed the importance of having strong language for the underground installations.

Sterling indicated that there needed to be an IAR per franchisee application. Clarification needs to be determined as to whether the requirement is separate IAR's or separate sections to address franchisee specific questions on their applications.

Sterling indicated that pricing and channels are dictated by federal regulations. Services, such as data, TV, and security alarms can be negotiated. Clarification is needed as to the extent of these regulations.

Sterling reported that senior discounts were not in place. This may be due to the lack of agreement on who qualifies. In any event the discounts are only applicable to the minimum service, currently less than \$10.00.

Chris stated that he would be more than happy to meet with the CAC.

Westminster

R. Lane Ware reported on his discussions with Karen Murphy, Town Administrator.

Westminster has been negotiating their renewal agreement with Comcast for two years. They have incorporated PEG in conjunction with Ashburnham and other language.

The primary challenge is in agreement for the extension of the system to two streets not included the original area served. While some of the areas meet the customer density guidelines for the Line Extension provisions, disagreements as to cost to extend to the streets and installation cost to individuals are a problem. In a public meeting Comcast agreed to perform a survey of the installations and provide costing. Comcast then declined to provide the survey.

Negotiations are on-going and expected to be resolved.

The area served language is very important to avoid the current Westminster challenge.

Incorporation of Westminster's Line Extension formula will be reviewed in the appropriate section.

Rutland

Paul Caneen will discuss with Rutland next week.

Greenfield

Phil Gransewicz reported that Greenfield built their own system because Comcast and Verizon would not upgrade the existing systems. These systems had been installed in the 1980's and were inadequate.

Concerns were expressed that as Comcast upgrades systems in larger areas to new technology the used equipment would be used in building out our system. Concerns will be addressed in the appropriate sections.

DTC

Darcy Rowell reported on her discussions with Michael Mael, Director of DTC.

DTC has not provided sample IAR's or Licenses as requested. Darcy will follow-up.

The question concerning Charter Communications presentation to the BoS was resolved.

Charter will provide their presentation to the BoS on Monday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center. All CAC members are requested to attend.

The Franchise Form 100 Applications will be opened in the Town Administrator's office Tuesday, Nov. 8, at 9:00 AM. Darcy Rowell will attend. Copies of the applications will be available for CAC members at our Nov. 9 meeting.

Review of Section 3 language

Review is based on Draft IAR provided by David Union.

Section 3.1 Area to be Served

Discussion centered on the language previously proposed by the BoS. In essence, "Licensee shall make Cable Service available to all residential dwelling unit within the Town, served by PMLD."

Town residences currently served by Sterling may need to be addressed separately.

Business locations and Town locations are to be addressed in later sections.

The timing for Non-Standard installations should be reduced to 30 days for aerial and 60 days for underground installations.

Section 3.2 Line Extension Policy

Concerns were raised about the use of density measures for the incorporation of the Line Extension Policy.

This led to a discussion of standard v nonstandard installation. This is covered under section 3.4 and it was agreed that we should recommend 350 ft. for aerial installations.

It was suggested that we should incorporate a cost formula similar to Westminster and Holden to provide a basis for cost discussions for line extensions to new developments.

Comcast has said they would not provide installation to residences on private roads. Princeton has several developments that fall in this category.

Clarification as to the issues surrounding this position need to be understood.

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.