

Cable Advisory Committee Minutes August 22, 2012

Call to order 4:02 p.m.

Present: Paul Ciccotelli, Chairman, Patricia Rumney, Secretary /Clerk, members; William RC White, Matt Underhill.

Matt informed that Peter Teitelbaum, BOS liaison was attending another meeting.

Meeting minutes from July 25, 2012 were read by the secretary. William had two items he noted were not in the minutes. He questioned that WCTV, local access, did not answer if there was a 5 yr plan from the Board which describes their needs. Paul noted that the answer is no and it was not noted at the meeting. The second item refers to ascertainment. The minutes did not reflect what ascertainment is. Paul answered; the process is defined by the state. It will be discussed later in the meeting. William made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended, and was seconded by Matt. Motion carried unanimously 4-0-0.

William requested clarification of this committee. Is this committee the complaint department for cable? Discussion followed, with questions, do we know what our role is. Paul answered, Peter BOS, liaison will be reporting back. We will negotiate with cable provider, come to an agreement, which will be given to the BOS for perusal and signature. The contract will be in our hands with enough time for scrutiny before it is forwarded to the BOS. We will make sure all agreements are noted.

Evidently last time, the Cable Advisory Committee, did not receive the written contract in enough time to read it. Consequently, some issues/concerns were not included.

There was no public participation.

Paul explained what the Chairman's report represents. If we need a letter to BOS and Comcast, cable provider, we will ask him to compose it and deliver to BOS. If there are any other requests of the Chairman, by the committee, the report will keep us informed. There was no Chairman's report today.

Paul noted that ascertainment as noted on pg.5 of the License Renewal Process: A practical Guide has listed many bullet points to aid in the process. Much discussion followed about: holding public hearings, a municipality wide survey, meeting with community organizations such as schools, police, fire, emergency medical etc. It was decided that members of the committee could be assigned various duties. Matt had brought a 2 page survey; William brought the reverse calendar for completing our assignments.

Paul suggested for homework: read the survey, make notes. Check the calendar and we should try to keep within the guidelines of the calendar. Matt offered to meet with the Police Dept, Fire for their input. We need another member to split some of the work. We could use additional technology from cable provider for emergency notices to the community.

How do we keep track of complaints from the community? In addition, customers with complaints need to be informed that we are tracking them but cannot fix them.

Pat mentioned subscribers living on the edge of Wareham cannot access Wareham cable access stations. Discussion followed about how the cable carriers have extra channels for local access but it is difficult to negotiate for them. We can ask when the representatives attend our meetings.

A letter informing Comcast that we are meeting as a committee needs to be written. We suggest that we compose this letter but it is necessary for the BOS to sign it.

Matt said he will bring the last ascertainment for the previous contract to the next meeting.

The next meeting of this committee will be Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by William, seconded by Matt. Approved unanimously, 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Rumney, Secretary/Clerk

WREHAM
CABLE ACCESS
BOARD
SEP 13 2012