

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

Minutes
March 10, 2015
6:30pm
Stockbridge Town Hall
Stockbridge, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller –Lenox
Tom Hatch – Great Barrington
Russ Stein – Sheffield
William Lehman - Stockbridge

Others Present: Melinda Poore – Time Warner Cable
Will Ryan – Board President, CTSB
Denise Curtin – Recording Secretary

Chairman Steve Moritz was unable to attend the meeting and the meeting was conducted by Linda Miller.

6:32pm Linda Miller called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Linda Miller moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 9, 2014 meeting and to accept the minutes as submitted with no changes. Seconded by Tom Hatch and Russ Stein. The motion carried unanimously.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

Melinda Poore was present to give the report.

Price Increase Notifications -

- Notices were sent to customers in December 2014 notifying them of the price increase.
- There were 2 notices sent with a summary of the price increases. One sent to the towns of Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge and a second one sent to Great Barrington and Sheffield.
- It was brought to attention by the committee that there are differences in some of the rates between the two letters.
- Prices are lower on the notice that was sent to Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge than the prices on the Great Barrington, Sheffield notice.
- Melinda Poore will follow-up and report back to the committee.

Madison Square Garden Network -

- Time Warner does not have the rights to carry MSG outside of New York State.
- A discussion ensued regarding the fact that the FCC had determined that we are indeed part of New York programming.
- Melinda will look into this and report back to the committee.

Sheffield Customer Line Extension -

- The line extension is underway. The builder stated in December that he may not be able to install conduit until Spring. Once conduit is in then TW can finish the line extension.

Truck for CTSB –

- Time Warner has indicated that they still have not been successful in locating a vehicle that is road worthy but will continue to search.

Energy Saver Shutdown -

- Currently the equipment on the cable boxes is programmed to go into Sleep Mode after 4 hours.
- Linda Miller experienced this issue during Super Bowl and she called and spoke to a technician who indicated that the Sleep Mode can be turned off voluntarily. If you would like to turn this off please call the service department and they will walk you through the process.

Digital Adapter Returns –

- Customers are having trouble returning these adapters. After the return is made customer bills are still showing the charges.
- If customers are experiencing this please let your town committee member know and they will forward to Time Warner.

Community action activity –

- None to report.

Customer Compliments –

- 2 technician compliments received from Great Barrington.
- 1 compliment from Sheffield and 1 from Lee.
- William Lehman asked how many techs do we have in our area?
- Melinda was not sure but will follow up.

- It was brought to Melinda's attention that some customers are experiencing delays between the remote and the box with channel changes.

CTSB REPORT –

Will Ryan, Board President was present to deliver the report.

- The station is doing spectacularly well.
- They have almost doubled membership since moving to the new building.
- The new equipment and signal quality is much better in the new space.

Community Outreach

- St. Mary's School now produces a television show. 6th and 7th grade students have been trained to use the field cameras and studio equipment. 16 students are involved in the program.
- A student from the College Internship Program in Lee has been selected as this year's production intern.
- The company has discontinued the "Student Video Contest". They will develop a new scholarship program to be ready for next year. Students interested in the scholarship will do a video in the studio as to why they deserve the scholarship.
- We are expecting our Time Warner Cable 5% franchise fee payment on March 17th.

- Leo and Will are getting the word out – so many groups don't know about CTSB.
- Studio Time – 3 month total of studio use by members: 45 hours
- Training – 3 month total of studio use by members: 49 hours
- Live Meetings: 17 live hours
- Selectmen's Meetings: 31 hours
- School Board Meetings: 26 hours

Fall Festival of Shakespeare – 13 productions.

- Has shipped 183 regular DVD's totaling \$3,660 and 24 Blu-ray totaling \$720.

New lecture series being implemented.

- First series we hosted was with John Whalan, President of Black Ice Entertainment out of Great Barrington. 40 CTSB members attended the event.

Membership –

- CTSB is working on getting the word out and contacting individuals and groups (ex: GB Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)
- Type of members/organizations – Corporate memberships \$500.00 – cannot promote anything.
- Individuals are the bulk of the memberships.
- Whatever your passion is come and put it on the air.
- Will will ask Leo to get the airing data of shows and email to Linda Miller and Denise Curtin.
- William Lehman asked if there were other facilities like CTSB in the area? What do big cities like Boston do?
- Melinda responded that Public education is on all cable systems. Ours is part of our franchise agreement negotiated as to 1 or 2 channels and the fees go to supplement funding of public access channels.

OLD BUSINESS –

- No old business.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Election of Chairman of the Committee will take place, as per our operating rules, every 2 years in March.
- Current Chairman Steve Moritz has stated that he does not want to run as chairman.
- Tom Hatch nominated Linda Miller as Chairman of the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee. Russ Stein seconded the nomination and the vote passed unanimously.

Next meeting of the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 6:30pm at the Great Barrington Town Hall, Great Barrington, MA.

Motion made by Tom Hatch to adjourn. Motion seconded by Russ Stein and William Lehman and motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Curtin
Recording Secretary