

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

Minutes
June 11, 2013
6:00pm
Lee Town Hall
Lee, MA

Members Present: Steven Moritz, Chair, Lee
Linda Miller – Great Barrington
David Parker - Lee
Michael Roisman - Stockbridge

Others Present: John Mucha, Time Warner
Leo Mahoney – CTSB
Denise Curtin – Recording Secretary

6:13pm Chairman Moritz called the meeting to order.

QUORUM: 3 towns present constitute a quorum and 3 of the 5 towns are here.

MINUTES: Linda Miller moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March 12, 2013 meeting and to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by David Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: Linda Miller moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes as submitted for the special meetings held April 3, April 8 and May 8, 2013. Seconded by Steven Moritz. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW MEMBER: Michael Roisman from Stockbridge was introduced.

CTSB REPORT –

- Leo Mahoney, Station Manager for CTSB presented report.
- Leo distributed 2 copies to the committee of the programming statistics.

Contract Renewal-

- CTSB Board of Directors has been notified of the 5 year renewal of the contract.
- Linda Miller will provide Leo with the contract when all towns have signed.

Digital Programming –

- Leo Mahoney and Will Ryan will do a short public service announcement notifying viewers of the changes from Time Warner regarding digital programming.
- John Mucha will provide a special phone number for those who want to order digital.

Student Video Contest –

- Congratulations to all contest winners.

Position Available -

- Leo told the committee that Nick Ring will be leaving CTSB to take a job with Amherst Community Television. They are searching for someone in the interim and will post the position for Operations Manager in the Berkshire Eagle and The Berkshire Record.
- This is a multi-faceted position which includes duties, such as, training new members on cameras, editing, setting up live meetings to ensure that all is operating correctly prior the meetings. Experience in general production, editing and how cable television works would be ideal candidates for this position.

New Location –

- New site is in the hands of the attorney. The new location will be at the Quarry Hill Park if all goes accordingly. Pre-approval loans have been accepted by 5 banks in the county.
- The Facilities Committee has picked a contractor.
- This has not been announced yet until the CTSB Board of Directors approves.
- Committee thanked Leo for the report.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

- John Mucha from Time Warner presented the Time Warner report.

CTSB Digital Transition –

- A notice will be sent to the towns regarding the PEG (Public Education and Government) Channels becoming digital channels. This will be a separate first class letter. This is not just in Berkshire County but all over the northeast.
- Adaptors will be available and can be mailed to subscriber home or they can be picked up at the cable office.
- The adaptor is proprietary and can only be acquired through Time Warner Cable.

License Renewal –

- Agreement has been reached. Waiting on 5 towns to send in with signatures, then Time Warner will counter-sign and return to the towns.
- Reminded all 5 towns that as soon as the agreement has been signed please get it mailed out right away. John will let the committee know upon receipt from the towns.
- New agreement does not go into effect until the 5th town has been received and the agreement will become effective on that date. Unfortunately, unforeseen circumstances slowed the process down (i.e. town managers leaving, town elections, etc.).
- CTSB contract is retroactive to the final date on the expired contract and will be in effect for 5 years.

Stockbridge Long Driveway Connection –

- Time Warner construction planner has been in touch with the resident and various alternatives have been discussed.

Other -

- 4th of July Parade – CTSB requested the Time Warner provide the 4th of July parade programming and technical arrangements for that to happen are underway.
- Time Warner will be providing to CTSB a truck for transporting equipment and will also allow them to do remote broadcasting.

Committee thanked John for the report.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- Committee indicated that volunteers are always needed for CTSB and also donations as this is a non-profit organization.
- If subscribers are unable to contact Time Warner through the 800# or the website, the Rotterdam office phone number is 866-321-2225. This will allow you to get in touch with someone regarding any situation that may be occurring in your area.

OLD BUSINESS -

- Broadband Initiative has been given an extension in laying the wire and backbone for the project.

NEW BUSINESS -

- No new business to report.

Linda Miller made an appeal to anyone who might be interested in serving on this committee. There are vacancies on the committee for all 5 towns. This is a great way to be part of the solution rather than the problem. Committee meets 4 times per year.

Next scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 6:00pm in Stockbridge.

Motion made by Linda Miller to adjourn. Motion seconded by Steven Moritz and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Curtin
Recording Secretary