

FIVE TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Representing the Towns of Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Sheffield and Stockbridge

Minutes

December 13, 2011

6:00pm

Lee Town Hall

Main Street, Lee, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller, Chair, Great Barrington
Thomas Hatch, Great Barrington
Bob O'Haver, Great Barrington
Paul O'Brien, Sheffield
Richard-Scott Burrow, Stockbridge
Steve Moritz, Lee

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

6:02pm Chairman Miller called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: June 14, 2011 minutes were not approved from the September meeting. Chairman Miller made a motion to dispense of reading of the minutes and to approve as submitted. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

September 13, 2011 – Regular meeting was not held due to lack of a quorum. Public Hearing was held. Chairman Miller made a motion to dispense of reading of the minutes for the public hearing, as well as the regular meeting, and to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

TIME WARNER REPORT:

John Mucha from Time Warner was present to give the report and to answer questions.

Rate Increase –

- An increase in the standard cable rate in all 5 towns and the basic rate in unregulated towns became effective December 1, 2011.
- An increase in the basic only rate (ch 2 – 21) will happen approximately February 1, 2012 in regulated towns.
- Chairman Miller asked what the difference is between regulated towns and un-regulated towns. Mr. Mucha responded that it is based on the number of actual subscribers who live in those communities for satellite providers. Satellite competition deregulates rates in those communities.
- Time Warner is looking to move closer to the Maximum Permitted Rate in all 5 towns.
- The rates should be stabilizing because Time Warner is close to the MPR.

New Subscriber –

- A new subscriber had issues with setting up a new installation because she did not want to give her social security # over the phone.
- When she called she was switched over to a person in India who took all her information and then she was transferred back to scheduling and was asked the same questions.
- Mr. Mucha explained that she probably called a third party that represents Time Warner.
- She was told she could come into a local office and would only have to show her photo i.d.
- It is standard practice for Time Warner to ask new customers to identify themselves with their Social Security number or visit a local office to show a photo i.d.

Alphabetical List –

- On November 10, 2011 a line was added above where the lineup begins on how to sort alphabetically.

License Renewal –

- Process continuing.

Programming Survey –

- Survey was done at the end of October/early November of this year and there was only 1 response to it.
- Will likely drop this survey and go to possibly sending out reminders that subscribers can go online to send suggestions.

Community Action –

- Time Warner will once again be broadcasting the United Cerebral Palsy Telethon on January 29, 2012.

HBO GO – Still in negotiations.

DVR – Member asked if there was any plan to re-program the “picture in picture” format so that it does not take up most of the center of the screen. Mr. Mucha will look into this.

CTSB REPORT –

- Leo Mahoney from CTSB presented the report.
- Annual Fall Festival of Shakespeare Fundraiser –
 - Once again this year was a huge success. The festival is a huge undertaking and cannot be done without the fine staff of volunteers.
- CTSB will be carrying the United Cerebral Palsy Telethon on January 29, 2012.
- Holiday Programming will include Olga May Milligan on December 15th and the Lenox Caroling Festival will be aired on Christmas Day.
- Congratulations on winning second place in the category of “Local Attractions” in this year’s Tanglewood British Car Show.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Notice was received from Town of Great Barrington – “Attorney General Releases New Regulations for Remote Participation”.
- The open meeting law will now allow participants to attend the meeting from a remote location either by phone or video without physically being at the meeting location.
- A physical quorum is required before remote access is allowed.
- All physical meeting attendees must be able to hear the remote participant.
- Each town has to approve these new rules before they can use them.
- Great Barrington has approved.

Chairman Miller made a motion that:

The Five Town Cable Advisory Committee hereby agrees to adopt the open meeting rules for remote participation at open meetings as per the Attorney Generals Regulations.

Motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

OPENINGS –

- There are still plenty of openings on the committee.
- 3 openings in Lenox (currently has no representative)
- 1 opening in Lee
- 1 opening in Stockbridge
- 1 opening in Sheffield

Anyone interested may apply at the Selectmen’s office of your town.

The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2012 at 6:00pm. Location will be confirmed prior to the meeting.

Chairman Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Curtin
Recording Clerk