

## FIVE TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

August 30, 2022

Stephen Bannon, Chair  
Town of Great Barrington Select Board  
Town Hall  
334 Main Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Sean Regnier, Chair  
Town of Lee Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall  
32 Main Street  
Lee, MA 01238

Dave Roche, Chair  
Town of Lenox Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall  
6 Walker Street  
Lenox, MA 01240

Rene Wood, Chair  
Town of Sheffield Select Board  
Town Hall  
21 Depot Square  
Sheffield, MA 01257

Patrick White, Chair  
Town of Stockbridge  
Town Offices  
50 Main Street / PO B0x 417  
Stockbridge, MA 01262-0417

### **Re: Ascertainment Report, Proposed Cable Television Renewal License, and Request for Proposal**

The Five Town Cable Advisory Committee, representing the Towns of Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Sheffield, and Stockbridge, has completed Phase One of the required federal and state process for the renewal of Charter Communications, Inc. Cable TV License Agreements; these agreements expire on February 23, 2023. The key documents - the Ascertainment Report, a proposed Cable TV Renewal License, and a Request for Proposal to Charter Communication, Inc. – are enclosed.

The Ascertainment Report addresses all mandatory steps in Phase One, which ends with the above letter being sent to Charter Communication, which it was on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The next step is Charter's, as they are required to submit a response within 30 days of receipt of the Committee's letter.

In contrast to the 2013 Cable TV renewal process, the Committee has submitted its own proposed Cable TV Renewal License to Charter Communications, which was reviewed by Bill Hewig, Esq. of KP Law. Contract language has been significantly strengthened to address and reflect our residents' needs; strongly position CTSB Access programming and address ongoing disputes with Charter. Through additional language defining complaints and complaint resolution procedures; clearly defining Charter's reporting requirements; and adding enforcement mechanisms for non-performance and breach of contract, as well as many other changes, we are prepared to negotiate. Much has changed since 2013 and any renewal license for another ten year period must assertively look ahead.

The public hearing on this Ascertainment Report and the proposed Cable TV Renewal License will be held on September 13, 2022, 6:30pm, at the Stockbridge Town Offices, 6 Main St, Stockbridge.

We invite you to attend or view the proceeding later over CTSB. We also strongly recommend this Ascertainment Document, proposed renewal license, and the Five Town Cable TV Survey results, all attached, be posted as possible to your Town's website for easy access and viewing by your residents.

We look forward to working with you during this process and are available to come to a Select Board meeting, discuss these documents, and answer questions. In the meantime, should you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Linda Miller, Chair at [LZMiller-5TownCAC@roadrunner.com](mailto:LZMiller-5TownCAC@roadrunner.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Z. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Linda Z. Miller

Chair, Five Town Cable Advisory Committee

Enclosures:     Ascertainment Report  
                     Proposed Cable TV Renewal License  
                     Five Town Cable TV Survey Results