

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

Minutes
September 12, 2017
6:30pm
Stockbridge Town Office
50 Main Street
Stockbridge, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller –Lenox
 Steven Moritz – Lee
 Tom Hatch – Great Barrington
 Rene Wood – Sheffield
 William Lehmann - Stockbridge

Others Present : Anna Lucey – Charter
 John Fogarty – Charter
 Melinda Poore - Charter
 Frank Boehlke – Charter
 George Doin - Charter
 Leo Mahoney – CTSB
 Dick Lindsay – Berkshire Eagle
 Eileen Mooney – The Newsletter
 Richard Squailia – West Stockbridge Resident
 Denise Curtin – Recording Secretary

6:30pm Linda Miller called the meeting to order.
 Quorum present. All 5 towns represented.

MINUTES: Steve Moritz moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of June 13, 2017 and accept as submitted. Seconded by Rene Wood and Linda Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

CTSB REPORT:

Leo Mahoney was present to give report.

- Live Feed for Lee High School -
 - CTSB, along with Spectrum did testing for live feed from Lee High School. The signal did come down to the master control but Leo was not pleased with the quality of the feed.
 - Spectrum indicated that it was with CTSB equipment so they have purchased an RF modulator and it will be permanently placed at Lee High School.
 - CTSB will need to notify Spectrum 2 – 3 days prior to any event that is to be broadcast from Lee to ensure signal is feeding properly.
- Leo would still like to get fiber into all of the high schools and will approach Spectrum to discuss.

- CTSB Awareness Video -
 - A new company awareness video called “Impressions” has been completed.
 - 13 people were interviewed, including our chairman, Linda Miller.
 - Rene Wood wanted to compliment and congratulate CTSB on this video. It lets viewers know how much CTSB offers the community and the education it provides to citizens.
 - Linda also complimented CTSB. It is not just community TV of the Berkshires, it is television for the community.
- Condolences sent to the families of 2 CTSB board members that recently passed away, Stephen Cozzaglio from Lee and David Stroud from Lenox.
- Best wishes sent out to Bernie Avalue, longtime PCTV Executive Director who retired in July1. Shawn Serre has been promoted to the Executive Director position.
- Upcoming Events –
 - End of Summer BBQ – September 13
 - “Let’s Talk About Audio” – September 20
 - Lee Founders Parade, September 16th – LIVE
 - Video Variety Show – airs in October
 - The Fall Festival of Shakespeare – November 17 – 19. This is the annual fundraiser for CTSB.
 - Membership currently at 141. Lower than normal attributed to the summer months.

SPECTRUM REPORT:

- Melinda Poore present to give report.
- Notification requirements and alleged breach of licenses.
 - Charter does not feel they are in breach of license as notices were given.
 - There was 1 notice that was an error on Spectrums part.
 - If errors occur in notices the CAC requested they be made aware of these.
 - Rene Wood feels that subscribers need to be notified each month on what changes are going to be made on their monthly bills.
 - John Fogarty indicated that Section 4.5 “channel line-up” states “notify to committee and subscribers 30 days in advance”.
 - He said that bill requirements need a certain amount of lead time for processing so sometimes it is not feasible for early notices due to channel negotiations.

Spectrum Report –

- Rene Wood stated that the Spectrum report should not be sent the day of the meeting.
- Melinda asked if they could receive the agenda further in advance so they can prepare their report with proper answers and get it to us in a timelier manner.

Guide –

- Many subscribers are not happy with the guide channel not accessible anymore.
- Spectrum does not own the guide. They provide the information to a third party group that houses all of the information.
- Frank Boehlke from Charter told the committee that Charter is in the process of creating their own guide which will be cloud based.
- Before finalizing, the committee suggested holding some subscriber focus groups on what they would like to see.

Peg Fees –

- \$149,000 remaining to be recouped.

Subscriber Survey -

- 75 responses received.
- Linda Miller said it was not a great response, but significantly better than expected.
- Rene Wood was not pleased with the way the report was given to the committee. She felt it should have had an analysis and it reflects poorly on Spectrum.
- She feels the committee is not being treated respectfully.
- Melinda indicated that there was no disrespect from Spectrum. They were providing what was required of them contractually.

Office Hours in Lee -

- Office hours are Monday – Friday 9:00am – 6:00pm.
- The public needs to know when they are closed for lunch. They need a standard lunch time so the public is aware when the office will be closed for lunch.
- Melinda will get an answer by Friday.

Intermittent Freezing/Tiling:

- Spectrum is not aware of any system issues at this time.
- If you are experiencing problems please call them so that a technician can be dispatched to your home.

WSHM on Spectrum app -

- WSHM – CBS is launched in the App.
- WSHM 3 – Has not launched in the App yet; will be launched in quarter 4.

Digital Transition -

- Transition over to Digital is due to take place in December 2017.
- Notices will be going out at the beginning of October.
- Melinda stated that she did not have much information as of this meeting.
- All channels will be encrypted to maximize bandwidth in the network.
- There will be a cost but no information available at this time.

Program Notices:

- Tom Hatch informed Spectrum that the New England Patriots are not going to be broadcast in Berkshire County on October 1st. They should make their operators aware of this.
- Steve Mortiz asked why we would not get MSG Network if we are considered in the Albany network.
- Melinda indicated that MSG is not a broadcast station and is not tied to any FCC rules for broadcast area.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Tom Hatch called WWLP about the modification request and the general manager was not aware of this.

NEW BUSINESS –

- West Stockbridge resident Richard Scalia emailed Linda prior to this meeting about West Stockbridge joining the 5 Town Cable committee.
- Linda informed Richard at this meeting that contractually they could not become a part of the committee at this time. Both contracts need to be identical and the West Stockbridge contract is very different from ours.
- Richard said that the email that was sent was not a direct request to become a member at this time, but more so in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS/CITIZEN SPEAK –

- Berkshire broadband was channeled until our next meeting.

Motion made by Linda Miller to adjourn. Motion seconded by Tom Hatch. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Curtin
Recording Secretary