

Fairhaven Cable Access Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Meeting opened at 7:15p.m.

Present: Chairperson, Barbara Acksen, Ron Medina, Kenneth Souza, MJ Carvalho, Robert Espindola, and Mike Merolla.

Absent: John Methia

Director of Cable Access, Derek Frates was also in attendance.

Minutes: November 20, 2018 – Barbara Acksen asked that the minutes be moved to the next meeting.

Cable Director's Report:

Derek Frates recapped what's been going on. He stated and showed the new Fairhaven Cable Access TV website. All the meetings are posted under a new tab, "Fairhaven Meetings". Contact page, phone and email (fairhaventv@gmail.com) for Public Access at end of every page. Rules and Policies are updated. Form of interest is also on website. Video submission form. Has to be Fairhaven resident that sponsors the show. Also a Video Spotlight is listed on the website. (currently the Animal Shelter) Under community videos are the youtube video, channel 95.

Mr. Frates stated they raised over \$100 for the Bobby Brusso Scholarship fund at the Fairhaven Holiday Fair.

Upcoming Meeting Filming Schedule

Mr. Frates stated there are a few shows already starting with trainings, etc. A cooking show at location, the Lions Club reached out; and Ron Medina is working with someone to direct a show.

Mr. Frates has also put together a 'winter preparedness' with the new building commissioner.

He also went over the Facebook page to show. He stated they were working on a 30 second PSA.

Mr. Frates stated he is putting together a Staff BIO page, and each person has a specialty.

Mr. Frates stated a FY20 budget has been created internally.

Bob Espindola asked about the MOU between the Town and Fairhaven School Department. Mr. Frates stated they are working it out and recently had a meeting.

Ms. Acksen asked if the high school had better recording system, as you couldn't really hear their meetings.

The School Committee has a new speaker/recording system for the high school. Mr. Frates said it is portable for any other meetings in the future.

Mr. Frates explained briefly about the new equipment that he has purchased.

Ms. Acksen asked about a consultant they had come in to revamp the sound functionality for the Town Hall auditorium. The consultant did an assessment, and Ms. Acksen asked if Mr. Frates had looked into

it. Ms. Acksen said she would contact Mr. Fostin to get more information. Mr. Espindola said he would like to have Mr. Frates review with the person/consultant to get more information.

Mr. Espindola stated the MOU with the School also was to include Capital Improvements as well, so there is a plan in place.

Discussion of Municipal Fiber Forum on 12/12/18:

Mr. Espindola stated that the BOS voted to move forward with a study committee to see if it's feasible for the Town. 3 appointments, Shawn Powers, Bob Espindola and Jay Simmons has thus far been appointed. Mr. Rees will be appointing a Town Staff person at the next BOS meeting. A member from the EDC will be appointing someone as well as the Cable Advisory Committee should appoint someone to be on the study committee, but is not required. No one seemed interested from the committee. Ms. Acksen said she would be interested but didn't have the technical background as she thought the Committee was looking for. The Committee was to ask John Methia if he was interested and had the time commitment to be on the study committee.

Ms. Carvalho said she watched the meeting and thought it would be hard to get that 30-40% tie-in from the Community, especially for the retiree who owns a small parcel.

Mr. Espindola stated it would be put together by how the Town wants it to be put together.

Ms. Acksen stated there should be a representation from this Committee, and if John Methia can't do it, she would be interested. Mr. Espindola stated he could be the conduit between this committee and his role as Board of Selectmen on the Committee.

Ken Souza stated he said it was worth discussing and studying. He said the price structure discussed seemed reasonable.

Mission Statement:

Ms. Acksen said she had reviewed the past year of what people had stated they wanted the Mission Statement would be. She stated a vision of robust, visual, sound and picture content being good. She asked if any thoughts from the Committee.

Mr. Souza stated he had looked on-line and reviewed it with the Committee. He made a suggested Mission Statement. Mr. Souza handed out information that he researched on other Towns' Mission Statements, both Wareham and Dracut.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Espindola stated he felt the Mission Statement put together by Mr. Souza was well written and a start for the Committee. Ms. Acksen stated that she would just like to add recommend to the last statement: "and monitor, recommend, and supervise community programming."

Mr. Merolla suggested having a public forum for residents to come in and complain to us or send suggestions in. Mr. Espindola stated that the Public could certainly come in to any of our meetings, or send a letter in to us with any complaint or suggestion. Ms. Acksen suggested a survey to residents, so the Committee could acquire data about what the residents concerns are.

Bob Espindola made a motion to adopt the Suggested Mission Statement, with one change at the last sentence to read, "and monitor, supervise and recommend community programming." Maria Carvalho second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mission Statement reads: The Fairhaven Cable/Media Advisory Committee (CAC/MAC) shall be appointed by and advise members of the Fairhaven Board of Selectmen in matters related to the Town's existing Cable Television service provider(s) and/or other media service provider(s). The CAC/MAC shall meet on a regular basis and be responsible for informing and educating the public about the types of cable/media services available; assess the needs of residents and recommend policy changes; ensure that current cable/media providers are in compliance with the terms of their contract with the Town; represent and address residents' concerns related to cable/media service; and monitor, supervise, and recommend community programming.

Mr. Merolla would like to see a statement to be issued on the website for anyone who would like to make a comment, complaint or suggestion. Mr. Frates to add that "suggestion box" to the website.

Discussion on adding a second TV for the audience members in the room who can't see what it being presented when they are in the room. Mr. Frates will think about the logistics and review the options.

Other business:

Mr. Frates stated he spoke to ORC TV who would come and present about non-profit. The Committee agreed to host and have their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

Mr. Espindola stated to ask Mr. Rees and Dr. Baldwin to participate in that meeting to learn more.

Mr. Espindola just asked that the meeting be structured to what they are doing, how they got there, what they've learned by being a non-profit rather than just casual what's happening.

Mr. Merolla made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ken Souza. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Respectively,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary