

Town of Fairhaven
Cable Advisory Committee
October 22, 2019 – 7:00p.m.

1. Quorum/Attendance:

Present: Chairperson, Barbara Acksen, MJ Carvalho and Robert Espindola

Absent: John Methia, Michael Merolla and Ron Medina

Cable Director, Derek Frates was also in attendance.

Ms. Acksen advised there was not a quorum to vote at tonight's meeting, so this would be a discussion meeting only.

2. Minutes from previous meeting: Ms. Acksen asked that the minutes be prepared with a bit more explanation at some points, to avoid confusion in the future; as she had some difficulty understanding the minutes presented and pointed out where the confusion was.

3. Cable Director's Report: Mr. Frates gave an overview of the 2nd Annual Halloween Event taking place this week on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at Town Hall. He said that postcards advertising the event were sent to all the schools including St. Joseph's School. He said there were more social media presence and that he reached out to the High School Honor Society for extra volunteers. He reported that Tim Cox will again be the doorman, and be counting how many individuals come in so they can keep track for safety purposes as well. He advised there are a few more Trick or Treat Community tables set up in the auditorium, a green screen photo booth will be in the East Room this year, and additional sets up on the Stage/studio for guests to see.

Mr. Frates would be giving the Committee members a tour of the set after the meeting. He said that there would be a special segment of the photography winners from the summer and of course the costume contest.

Mr. Frates updated the Committee with the different public access shows that were happening. The cooking shows were doing well, cooking with grandchildren had a few more shows done and coming up. He also said Ms. Pacella was interested in doing a show in the near future.

Ms. Pacella, also the recording secretary this evening, stated it would be a talk show discussing budgeting personal finances, cooking healthy while sticking to a budget, and different topics.

Mr. Frates reported there would be trainings coming up in November for public access.

He said that he met with Comcast people today regarding the switch over. He said there was a need for some internal wiring that needed to take place with IT, and that everyone is guaranteeing better quality.

4. Broadband Study Committee:

Mr. Espindola stated there was no report to be given as of yet, whereas they have not had a meeting; but were waiting for the RFP's to be turned in (by Nov. 4, 2019).

Mr. Espindola explained that the Select board's goal session was coming up this coming Saturday to review goals and he would be discussing his goals for Broadband and Cable.

Mr. Frates reported that at least eight companies requested RFP's directly from him so he was curious to see how many would actually send it back by the 4th.

Mr. Espindola stated that for Special Town Meeting they would need to have a range of cost to be presented.

He said at this time there is no scheduled meeting, but he would discuss with Mr. Frates about possibly meeting November 5, 2019. He will be in touch.

5. Update on RFP for additional Cable Services: No information at this time.

6. Update on FCC Building:

Mr. Espindola stated there was a motion to "stay" the action and no further updates at this time.

7. Continued Discussion of long term planning & budget development:

Mr. Espindola stated the Committee should prepare as if there are going to be no changes, and then perhaps think about what their reaction would be IF it's going to change.

Mr. Frates stated that with this FY20 being the first year with the enterprise fund they would have to analyze how it worked out and it's a work in progress.

Ms. Acksen asked if the long term goal was more public access training, did Mr. Frates believe he would need more staffing.

Mr. Frates stated that with Eric now on as a full-time staff person that between the two of them they could handle public access training classes; and between the part-time videographers there was an average of about 4 staff members, maybe 5. Mr. Frates thought at this time that was enough to carry their load.

There was a brief discussion on the Select board trying to refigure Town Hall Accessibility on the main level and asked what if the East Room became an office how it may affect camera's, meetings.

Mr. Frates said that meetings that take place in this room are simply used with a portable camera and that it would be an easy fix/setup to film a meeting elsewhere.

Mr. Frates said that he would have more analytical data in December via paperwork for the Committee to look at. But he did say that they have done over 90 community productions and or PSA's in the last year.

Ms. Carvalho had a suggestion for a program called "Ask a Selectmen", by hosting one of the Selectmen on a monthly basis to answer questions from the public. She and Mr. Frates would discuss.

In other business, Ms. Acksen stated that she and Ron Medina were talking and Mr. Medina thought that he heard maybe Acushnet got HD. Mr. Espindola stated that at this time it was a mute point, because their contract has been negotiated.

Eric Sa stated that he had thought it was Lakeville and they have Verizon as their carrier.

Mr. Frates stated that he is willing to work with anyone that wanted to do something on Public Access. He said that Dave Fauteux reached out to him to do something and that Ms. Carvalho recently did the Portuguese voice over regarding recycling.

Meeting ended at 8:00p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella