

Cable Advisory Committee
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Minutes – Informational Meeting

Present: Chairperson, Barabara Acksen, Ronald Medina, and MJ Carvalho

Absent: John Methia, Mike Merolla, and Robert Espindola

Cable Director, Derek Frates was also in attendance.

Ms. Acksen opened the meeting at 7:00p.m. and advised it would be a discussion only meeting as there was not a quorum to conduct any voting business.

The Committee reviewed the October 22, 2019 minutes, as that was also a discussion only meeting and Mr. Frates would have them posted.

Cable Director's Report:

Mr. Frates presented the Committee with the Annual Report for 2019; reviewing the totals of government access shows that were done throughout 2019. He reported 234 meetings were covered, as well as additional PSA's and programming. He also stated there were 50 original shows created and edited on public access channel 95. Mr. Frates reviewed how some of the shows were updated on Access Affiliated Stations, especially the cooking shows "Family Table" which they produced approximately 7-8, and Cooking with Grandchildren.

Mr. Frates stated they are currently working on a profile of Tim Cox, the Harbormaster/Shellfish Warden; as well as highlighting the hiking/walking trails in Fairhaven.

Mr. Frates stated they have produced and worked with Fairhaven Tours on their walking tours of Riverside Cemetery and Poverty Point and are looking to enter them in contests.

Mr. Frates stated that Ms. Pacella has started her own lifestyle talk show with Public Access and has they have produced three shows to date.

Mr. Frates gave an overview of where to locate the shows on fairhaventv.com website, both government access and public access. He said in between shows the Fairhaven Bulletin Board loops with information.

He also said that someone from Community Nurse has begun discussion with him about hosting their own show. As well as Mr. Wayne Oliveira and John Medeiros to discuss how the large flag and pole came to be. He said he also has had discussions with the Fairhaven Militia on possible producing something.

MJ Carvalho stated that she is involved in sponsoring a new show with the Portuguese Southcoast Community. She said they had recorded a segment regarding the read-a-thon at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford and looking forward to presenting it on Fairhaven Cable Access.

Mr. Frates stated he was airing regionally produced recycling videos in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Mr. Frates reported there has been a great presence on Social Media, and thanked his staff. He mentioned all staff by name and stated they are a great team that works together in all aspects of government and public access.

Mr. Frates advised there was a new contact for them through Comcast business and that was Mike Gala. Ms. Acksen stated she would reach out to him and have him attend one of their future meetings.

Update on Broadband Study Committee:

Mr. Frates stated that the RFP for the feasibility study was complete and that Entry Point LLC was the winning bid. He said the first kick off planning meeting with them would be on February 25, 2020 at 7:00p.m.

Update Town Meeting Review Committee:

Ms. Acksen stated that they had received an invitation to attend the Town Meeting Review Committee, who was put into place to make the experience for town residents easier at Town Meetings. She said they were looking for easier ways to improve the flow of Town Meeting. Also looking to improve the audio and visual aids with the IT department and better equipment. Mr. Frates stated his department does a lot behind the scenes with Town Meeting and it goes well, whatever their department can do in the future to assist he'd be there.

Committee Review Questionnaire:

The Selectmen recently put forth a questionnaire to all Board and Committee's and asked for their review and input on the survey. This Committee reviewed the questions together and came up with answers. Ms. Acksen will submit the information on their behalf.

Conflict of Interest Form:

Ms. Acksen stated she sent everyone the conflict of interest forms and asked they get it back to her, or Town Clerk signed.

Continued discussion on Long Term Planning & Budget Development:

Ms. Acksen stated she leaves this topic on the agenda for discussion but it might be time to goal set what the committee would like to see as far as long-term planning and being involved with the budget development.

Mr. Frates said he could share the budget development stages, as far as what the budget is compassed of: salary, office supplies, etc. He said that last year was the first year with the enterprise fund, and they wouldn't really know how that works until the end of this year. (fiscal year)

Ms. Acksen stated she would like to have a discussion from Committee members at a future meeting on what their long range planning is, perhaps group trainings, etc.

The next meeting was set for February 18, 2020 at 7:00p.m. MJ Carvalho made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Respectively,

Pattie Pacella
Recording Secretary

