



CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2020 – 6:00pm

Committee Members:

<u>Keith Silvia</u>	2021	Selectmen Representative
John Methia	2021	
Ronnie Medina	2021	
Maria Carvalho	2021	
Vacancy One	2021	
Barbara Acksen	2021	Chairwoman

Mr. Frates opened the meeting at 6:34; as Chairperson, Barbara Acksen was not present as of yet.

Present: Maria Carvalho, Ronnie Medina, Keith Silvia, Barbara Acksen (arrived at 6:49pm), and John Methia (arrived at 7:00pm)

Absent:

Cable Director: Derek Frates was in attendance

1. **REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 MEETING** - Ms. Carvalho made a motion to accept the minutes of September 15, 2020 and was seconded by Ronnie Medina. The motion passed unanimously.

2. CABLE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: UPDATE ON PEG FUNCTIONING, CHANNEL 95

Mr. Frates reported that for October 2020 there were 23 meetings broadcasted; 1 event; PSA's produced (COVID safe Halloween PSA); 40 original programming hours. FairhavenTV.com - 3,200 government meeting views; 202 meetings were recorded to date.

He said there has been 21 original shows this year.

On Public access, Mr. Frates reported, "The Magazine" produced by David Fauteux was new and has already produced three shows highlighting area businesses.

He stated Community Nurse Home Care has done several shows and they have been aired.

He stated there are Halloween Stories on the website that seem to be a big hit. Along with the Fairhaven TV's Virtual Halloween Party.

Mr. Frates reported 16 Shows were imported and one new affiliated Access Stations

With fairhaventv.com - 243 Community Views; 1274 Facebook followers

3. UPDATE ON BROADBAND STUDY COMMITTEE: Mr. Frates stated that 500 people filled out the broadband survey that was included in with the Fairhaven water bill recently. He said the committee is looking to have community engagement within the next four to six months. He believes the committee will meet with the Selectmen and then do the community engagement segment. He said their consultant is Entry point.

4. UPDATE ON VIRTUAL HALLOWEEN EVENT - Mr. Frates updated committee members on the virtual Halloween event. He said it went very well with fifty children on line and in costumes. He also stated there were 100 watching through the video. He said they weren't sure how much response they would receive, but it was a successful event. He said they added pre-recorded stuff and the Halloween spooky stories with Greselda the witch. Mr. Frates went over where to find the videos for community access media as well as government access videos. He went over where to find the 'tv guide' of what shows are actually on programming. There are a few PSA's of messages in between videos.

Mr. Frates showed the spooky Halloween stories that was filmed on the stage. He also stated there was an inside event at the Fairhaven Rec Center with Halloween Photos that can be found online as well. A good following started with this event. Mr. Frates stated that there were PSA's done for the Halloween event - Fairhaven Rotary and NFIA did one. Ms. Acksen gave kudos to everyone that worked on the Halloween event.

Mr. Frates said they cover a lot of government access meetings more than any other surrounding town.

He stated there was a "Spotlight" that runs on the bottom of fairhaventv.com, and this month the Veterans Day Virtual Event is being viewed now on the spotlight.

Mr. Silvia stated the Council on Aging handed out 75 luncheons and 6 were delivered to Veterans in remembrance of the holiday through a grant that the COA received.

Mr. Frates stated he has worked with Brad Fish, Veteran officer for the July 4th virtual event and now Veterans Day. He said anyone can go on website to find any programming, as well as Youtube and Facebook.

Coming up in near future: Mr. Frates stated coming up is something called, "Hometown Hikes", which will highlight the trails in the area. It'll be a two-minute synopsis of a highlighted trail in town.

Mr. Frates stated that Ms. Botelho's film, "Junkie" will be playing on channel 95 after 11pm.

Ms. Acksen came in at 6:49pm thinking the meeting was at 7:00pm start. Mr. Frates stated he was just reviewing his staff report and showing Mr. Silvia the website. He did a quick review for Ms. Acksen to bring her up to speed. Mr. Methia then also joined the committee meeting at 7:00p.m.

Mr. Frates was able to get the Fairhaven victories of Fairhaven High Football vs Dartmouth High – Thanksgiving games from 2009, 1999 and 2011 And he will begin playing those from now until Thanksgiving.

He stated he got information from the bikeway committee of the bike path and Mr. Frates will play that once he receives it.

Mr. Frates stated that Ms. Carvalho agreed to do a “Committee vacancies” show for vacancies that are available in the Town as a Public Service Announcement and that will be happening soon.

Mr. Frates is going to meet with Mr. Chris Richard, Tourism Director this week about how they could put on a Virtual hometown holiday. A few suggested different ideas on how to help with that. Ms. Carvalho suggested a decorating episode of houses in Fairhaven that are decorated.

5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF COVID IMPACT ON PROGRAMMING, ETC

Ms. Acksen asked about the drops of fiber at the different locations of Town. Mr. Frates stated that it was up to Comcast where the fiber was dropped. He said the Halloween event was the first live event they created on channel 18 and it worked well.

Ms. Acksen asked about the budget. Mr. Frates stated that their complete FY21 budget was approved. Mr. Frates had put more money into the videographer’s budget, he is bringing them back as an on needed basis. His annual for equipment was \$10,000, which he believed was enough at this time. He said he has been working on a livestream mobile system. It’s an upgrade switch that gets build in-house by Erick Sa.

Ms. Acksen stated the next step is upgrading our programming, which may be hard right now. She stated that is the model they are using now in Plymouth.

Mr. Frates stated that Ms. Pacella is ready for another show soon and she explained her overview of final budget for the year with credit card debt being paid off and savings especially during COVID times.

6. NEW SELECTBOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Acksen welcomed Mr. Silvia.

Mr. Frates stated their number one goal is to be here for the community and the Town government/town department heads to know they are available.

Ms. Acksen agreed that a weekly news report of recaps that happen in Fairhaven would be great and wondered if there was a way to get that out. Mr. Frates suggested volunteers would be needed as the staff is overwhelmed enough with all the government meetings and happenings that take place.

John Methia made a suggestion that they discussed pre-covid about sports programming. He said that winter sports may be coming back and he wondered if that was happening in Fairhaven (as it is in New Bedford and Voc-tech). He said that it would be great if they could livestream the games as a way for the community to stay connected as they will probably not be able to attend the events.

Mr. Frates stated that the School Committee had a regularly scheduled meeting on November 18, 2020 where he thinks they may be discussing winter sports. He did say that since the budget is divided up by 44% to the school that perhaps they could take the reign on this suggestion and produce it. He said that he would be willing to assist.

Mr. Methia stated Dartmouth access is doing it; NB is doing winter sports as well. And he said that he believes the question may come forth, whereas Fairhaven residents want to watch the games.

Mr. Frates stated that staffing is the issue for sure as now they have multi meetings per night and then turning he would be concerned about the turnaround time. He said when he did it in Dartmouth it was an eight-person team that filmed the games.

There was discussion about the possibility of going to School Committee to discuss this option. Mr. Methia agreed the education equation needs to be explored as they have larger budget but thinks we should take the lead to get it going. Ms. Acksen agreed that they should put together some information to give a presentation. Mr. Methia believes there will be a calling to get this started especially now.

Mr. Frates stated he would invite Drew from the School Department to come and discuss what options may be available. Mr. Methia wondered if they should wait or be proactive.

Ms. Acksen thinks it's a good idea but thought the school committee wasn't receptive to the idea last time. Mr. Methia discussed sponsorship if that was a choice. Ms. Acksen didn't think they could do that. Mr. Methia would just like to be pro-active to perhaps offer or suggest it to them. Mr. Methia stated he would watch the next nights School Committee meeting and respond to the committee afterward.

Mr. Methia does a podcast and will send the link to Mr. Frates in the future.

Ms. Carvalho was looking at interviewing Select board last year. She is interested in doing something.

Mr. Frates stated that Mr. Espindola has been doing Zoom meetings for his office hours, as a monthly thing and it's going well.

Ms. Carvalho stated she wanted to do a show that perhaps she is the moderator to people who want to be anonymous with questions to the Select board members. Mr. Methia asked how it would be anonymous. Ms. Carvalho stated questions would be emailed to her directly and she could hold those confidential emails. Mr. Methia stated he would be concerned with the anonymity.

Mr. Gary Lavalette asked if a public input meeting to bring out ideas from the community via Zoom. He said there is a wealth of information of shows that can be done. He said Dartmouth goes to new businesses, so perhaps Fairhaven could do a 'who's who' in business. He said with public input they could have some ideas.

Ms. Carvalho said that cable access could be opening up for some issues and should check with the Town attorney.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Frates advised Mr. Lavalette to look at the website to see what has been produced because there is quite a bit of videos out there.

Ms. Acksen stated they have certainly opened up their meetings to the public for ideas. She said that advertising with certain businesses are a tricky situation. Mr. Frates stated that the policy and procedures was well written and should be reviewed if anyone wants to do a public access show.

Mr. Frates stated they could add an additional meeting to open up to the community.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT ANTICIPATED PRIOR TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Carvalho made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by John Methia. Motion passed unanimously at 8:00p.m.

Respectively,

Patricia A Pacella
Recording Secretary