

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 23, 2021

Affiliations	Name	Present
Cable Director	Derek Frates	Yes
Committee Members	Barbara Acksen, Chairwoman	Yes
	Ronnie Medina	Yes
	Maria Carvalho	Yes
	John Methia	Yes
	Thomas McAfee	Yes
Select Board Representative	Stasia Powers	No
Recording Secretary	Kelly Camara	Yes

Minutes:

Ms. Acksen opened the meeting and advised that the meeting was being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The Governor's Order suspends the Requirement of Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible location.

The committee was unable to vote on the meeting minutes from 16 August, due to an insufficient quorum from last meeting. The Board will table the review of the minutes until the next meeting.

Cable Director's Report: Update on the Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Access (Channels 18 & 95):

Mr. Frates informed the Committee of the new Select Board Representative, Stasia Powers.

Monthly reports: Channel 18 had 25 meetings broadcast, and 4 new events and PSAs were covered.

Facebook viewership is up to 1700; over 2500 government meeting views (average time watched was 25 minutes).

There were 6 imported shows broadcast from other regions and one new affiliate (communities who download our productions). Channel 95 broadcasts community media and is where all our own productions can be found.

Mr. Frates reiterated that all current live meetings are all always up on FairhavenTV.

Friday COVID updates with Health Agent, Dave Flaherty, are posted on the town website, Facebook, and a youtube link to share.

The walk through with the tree warden has also been posted.

As part of the opioid task force, FairhavenTV has covered International Overdose Awareness Day, including the New Bedford presentation at City Hall with Mayor Mitchell. The Committee conducted side

interviews, and included affiliates with our task force. Mr. Frates will air the demonstration on Mass Access and other communities.

During the pandemic, under community videos, Channel 95 started the Adopt-a-Pet once a month, which also aired on social media platforms.

Cathy Melanson hosted a tour of the Rogers School with the Rogers Re-Use Committee. The tour will be posted on our webpage. This allows other groups to see what is available within the building. There will also be tours for residents: 2 on September 30th and additional tours the following weekend. The tour schedule will be posted on the community bulletin board, which can be found on the town website.

Mr. Frates will be filming the Encampment at Fort Phoenix for the militia on September 25 and 26, 2021.

On October 1, 2021, listed in Neighborhood News, our videographer, Alyssa Botelho, will do a screening of her short film. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:00 p.m. The film will be followed by questions and answers with Ms. Botelho and some of the crew.

Cable Access made a decision to remain virtual for the Halloween event. The actual event will be on Friday, October 22, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. This event includes in-house produced ghost stories.

The Tourism Department is hosting kids' Fest on October 9, 2021 at the Huttleston Market location. Public Access will have a booth at the event to promote upcoming public access events and awareness in general.

Any organization that wishes to gain community awareness is welcome to come in October 15, 2021 for a 1-minute PSA. They can script it, and we will air it on our virtual Halloween open house and community bulletin board.

Broadband Study Committee Update:

Ms. Acksen asked Mr. Frates about any updates. He did not have anything substantial, since the meeting was postponed. He did state they are still looking for infrastructure grants.

Filming School Sporting Events:

Ms. Acksen described how residents can sign up to stream sporting events. Fairhaven's licensing agreement with Comcast states that making separate agreements with any other company might impact the town's license. She asked Mr. Frates if he would vote to authorize her to write to the Select Board, and if she can speak to Bill Soloman, our licensing attorney.

Mr. Methia elaborated on how these services work. The group films and posts the game and makes them available with a nominal fee to the school. The Board should look into whether or not the streaming service will allow rebroadcast. They are expecting viewers to go to their platform to watch the game.

He also believes the town would have to reach out to Comcast for clarification. It's a resubmission and would need clearance from Comcast to retransmit.

Action: Ms. Acksen to approach Comcast to ask what the town is required to do under the licensing agreement.

Mr. Frates suggested inquiring about the logistics with the school department.

Ms. Acksen clarified that whenever going to the Town Counsel, will first need to go to the Selectmen to authorize discussion and any research.

Mr. Frates suggested to first obtain additional information and find out exactly what they are streaming, what's available, and the price. He recommended speaking with Drew Furtado, the educational coordinator. The Board should determine the best point of contact before addressing Attorney Soloman.

Action: Ms. Acksen to gather this data before reaching out to the Selectmen.

Mr. Methia believes there is a fee to pay for service and then they are able to distribute and rebroadcast that service. He is not sure if that provider would be open to giving Fairhaven Public Access the stream.

Other Business:

Mr. Frates mentioned that Michael Fernandes started at the Hasting Middle School. He will create a curriculum including basic shot and structure. The students have iPads and a stage for equipment.

Once Mr. Fernandes is settled the Committee would like him to come in and present.

Ms. Acksen discussed how this school program will help add television programming.

Ms. Carvalho made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Methia. The motion passed unanimously.