

*minutes approved at
July 21, 2016 meeting*

South Hadley Cable TV Advisory Committee Minutes for March 31, 2016 Meeting

Attendance

Members Present:
Eric Zahm, Chair
Stephen Fox

Administrative

Meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM

A motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Fox and seconded by Eric Zahm. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM

Old Business

Eric mentioned that he had had a further conversation with the resident who had asked for information on buying and installing his own cable modem rather than paying the monthly fee for the rental of a Comcast supplied modem. Eric said he had given this person my (Stephen Fox) phone number to pursue this issue, but I did not receive a call from this individual. After some discussion, Steve agreed to speak with Bob Smith about perhaps putting the information on what modems to purchase and how to install them on either the Cable TV web page/on demand server site or perhaps on the Town of South Hadley web page. Steve will provide narrative content and links for said pages.

Eric tried to contact Desiree Smelcer to follow up on some of the issues/events we discussed with her and Joseph Rodio during our meeting with them at the Library on January 26, 2016. Unfortunately, Ms. Smelcer was not available at that time. Eric will attempt to contact her again concerning the outcome of the grant application for archivist that we were informed of during our January discussion and to find out whether the matter of support/resources for their efforts by our committee and the Cable TV Fund was discussed at the Historical Society or Library Board meetings and any feedback provided on these issues by the participants.

New Business

Eric received notice from Laura Krutzler, Town Administrative Secretary that a Public and Evidentiary Hearing concerning the Petition of Comcast to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment and installation rates for communities they (Comcast) serve. The Hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 10:00AM. The site for the Hearing is Room 1E at 1000 Washington Street, Boston, MA. Residents

or committees who wish to actively participate (all are welcome to listen) must file a petition to intervene no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 with:

Sara J. Clark

Secretary of the Department

Department of Telecommunications and Cable

1000 Washington Street, Suite 820

Boston, MA 02118-6500

Phone: Michael Scott, hearing officer: (617) 368-1114

Further information on what the petition is required to contain may be obtained from members of this committee, Ms. Krutzler or from the Department of T&C listed above.

Eric received notice from Laura Krutzler, Town Administrative Secretary that the town had received from Comcast payment for the 2015 license fee based on the number of subscribers in town. These fees are placed directly in the town common fund. Also, in accordance with MA regulations, Comcast furnished a copy of their policies and procedures, a sample subscriber bill, sample work order and rate and channel line-up information for South Hadley.

In conjunction with the above, the Committee was notified by Bob Smith, South Hadley CCTV Studio Manager that he was contacted by Jim Lescault from Amherst Media community TV concerning an audit that his organization was considering commissioning to determine how accurately and what methods Comcast uses to come up with the number of subscribers that the license fee they pay to each community is based on. Mr. Lescault was trying to determine if South Hadley was interested in participating in this study. The committee decided to first show this proposal to Mike Sullivan, Town Administrator to determine if he feels the town would benefit by participation in the survey. Steve Fox was tasked with contacting Mr. Lescault concerning this proposed audit and also with possible co-operation on other issues with Amherst Media. Steve said that there might be some benefit in sharing programming/productions with the larger community TV studios in the area, which is an area he would pursue with Amherst Media. Eric said he would do the same with Northampton Community Television.

Eric attended the Know Your Town event, representing the Cable TV Advisory Committee. Subsequent to the meeting, Eric received a letter from resident Denise Presley asking to meet with Eric and the Committee about creating a 30 minute weekly talk show to highlight issues in town and interview some of the presenters from the various committees who participated in the Know Your Town event. The committee wants to encourage this type of initiative and use of town CCTV and resident assets, so Eric has asked Bob Smith to reach out to Ms. Presley and provide her with any assistance he could on this matter.

Next Meeting Scheduled

The next meeting date was left open, with Eric committing to come up with a few dates that will allow all members to be present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephen Fox, acting as Recording Secretary for the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Fox", written in a cursive style.

