

South Hadley Cable TV Advisory Committee Minutes for July 21, 2016 Meeting

Attendance

Members Present:
Eric Zahm, Chair
Denise Presley
Stephen Fox
Dale Johnston

Administrative

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with necessary corrections was made by Eric Zahm and seconded by Stephen Fox

A motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Fox and seconded by Eric Zahm. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Old Business

Eric spoke with Desiree Smelcer at the Town Library to follow up on our meeting with her and Mr. Joseph Rodio on January 26th of this year. The grant request by the library to the state for a documentarian was approved. The Library Board is currently examining how they will be utilizing this grant to digitize historical items and media for the Town. Eric and Desiree agreed to keep in touch to determine what this Committee can do to help facilitate this process through use of funds in the CATV account and/or the resources of the Local Access Cable TV Studio.

Steve, who is also a member of SHELD Fiber Optic Advisory Committee was asked to give an update on the status of Fiber To The Home (FTTH) in South Hadley. He reported that the Committee had been reconstituted by the SHELD Board after completing its initial mandate of determining whether to proceed on a proposal by Axia, a Canadian company, to provide the Town with FTTH in a project with SHELD. The Municipal Light Board has asked the committee to determine if and how SHELD should proceed if the proposal from Axia is withdrawn. The proposal is in some doubt currently due to corporate changes at Axia. Steve has agreed to keep this Committee up to date concerning the status of any proposal to bring FTTH to the town by SHELD.

New Business

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Eric told the Committee that he and members Stephen Fox and Dale Johnston were re-appointed to the Committee and that Denise Presley was appointed to the committee. Eric welcomed Denise to the Committee and reviewed with the members the Committee's role in the negotiations of the 2010-2019 contract with Comcast. He also discussed the committee's role in the interregnum of the contract, advising the Town on expenditures from the CATV funds and providing guidance on the planning, operations and staffing of the Local Access Cable TV Studio. Denise informed us that she and a group of residents had completed several videos that followed up and expanded on information presented at the Know Your Town meetings using the staff and equipment at the SH Cable TV Local Access Studio.

There were questions from Committee members concerning recent articles in the Town Reminder and elsewhere concerning the expenditure of funds from the CATV account to upgrade equipment at the Library. The committee was not asked to advise or comment on these expenditures. Members wonder what the role of the committee is if we are not informed of plans for use of CATV funds or Studio equipment and personnel so that we can provide input.

A motion was made by Stephen Fox and seconded by Denise Presley that: Eric should arrange a meeting with Town Administrator Michael Sullivan so the Committee can ascertain Mr. Sullivan's view of the Committee's role in the process of oversight of spending monies from the CATV account and also with regard to our role in planning and operations of the CATV Studio's resources and personnel. Motion passed unanimously.

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.