



CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 12, 2021

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

Minutes:

Ms. Acksen opened the meeting and welcomed the committee's new member, Thomas McAfee, and the Select Board Representative, Stasia Powers.

The committee was unable to vote on the meeting minutes from 16 March, due to insufficient quorum.

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

Mr. Frates informed new members about the content on Fairhaven's Cable Access Channel and navigation of the cable's website. FairhavenTV.com is an all-inclusive website for government and community cable access. Mr. Frates reminded everyone meetings are live with a direct link to watch the livestream on the homepage.

The following is the link to the cable's website: <https://www.fairhaventv.com/>

Production is split with government access on Channel 18 and community television on Channel 95.

Recently, Channel 95 had a public access event, which was bingo night and also hosted an airing of a documentary for the Cultural Council. The "Spotlight" on the homepage features current notifications,

which currently displays nature trails throughout town. The homepage also has a PDF of the 2020 Annual Cable Report.

Mr. Frates wrapped up by demonstrating how to navigate through the FairhavenTV homepage. Live zoom meetings and meeting agendas can be accessed through the homepage on the town website fairhaven-ma.gov.

On the FairhavenTV Youtube channel, featured shows are found under playlists along with monthly public service announcements (PSAs). Follow on Facebook and subscribe to the FairhavenTV Youtube page for current updates.

Mr. Frates sends monthly reports to the Selectboard and Town Administrator. In the past 6 months, 166 meetings were broadcast, 10 PSAs and events were announced.

July Report: 16 meetings broadcasted, 1 event/PSA produced, and 28 original programming hours.

Mr. Frates also mentioned MassAccess is the umbrella organization for community access TV in Massachusetts; a resource for stations, managers, employees, and viewers.

Ms. Acksen asked if there has been any recruiting with local nonprofits to promote their services. Mr. Frates concurred with Ms. Acksen and agreed to do a PSA to recruit more nonprofits.

Broadband Study Committee Update:

Mr. Frates advised the viewers to watch the recent meeting for in-depth technical briefing. Mr. Frates gave a brief update stating the first portion was voted on at Town Meeting, and now they are working with the town's consultant, EntryPoint, who is hiring an engineering firm to analyze the town's infrastructure and develop a cost estimate. Fortunately, there are grants available due to the pandemic, such as The Local Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) funds and state funds. Mr. Espindola is going to State representative, Straus, for broadband infrastructure grants and funding.

Discussion of Impact to Continue Zoom on Cable Budget, Staffing, and Planning Implications:

Ms. Acksen asked Mr. Frates the costs and impacts of continuing Zoom meetings. Mr. Frates stated legislation approved Zoom participation for Boards through April 2022. The budget is a concern, but there are numerous benefits to permanently maintaining a hybrid model. The town has already purchased equipment. The only concern is making sure someone is trained on each Board to run Zoom or hire an extra part-time employee to run Zoom for government meetings. Ms. Acksen made a suggestion to run a training for Board members.

Ms. Acksen requested a projected budget by December; acknowledging adjustments can be made.

The cable budget is currently split with 56% going to government access and 44% educational access.

Other Business:

Mr. Frates spoke about upcoming plans for Halloween event. Will have official date and flyers by next meeting. Ms. Acksen mentioned how this event allows for community groups to have tables with information about their organization.

Mr. McAfee made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Medina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.