

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 16, 2021

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

Minutes:

Ms. Acksen opened the meeting at 5:01PM and the committee approved the previous minutes of the previous meetings as follows:

Ms. Carvalho made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 16th meeting, seconded by Mr. Medina. Ms. Powers and Mr. McAfee abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Carvalho made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 23rd meeting after a small amendment to remove Keith Silva from the committee members list, seconded by Mr. Medina. Ms. Powers abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McAfee made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 12th meeting, seconded by Ms. Powers. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Monthly report for September:

Channel 18 broadcast 28 meetings, and produced 7 new Events and PSAs for a total of 49 original programming hours.

Facebook viewership remained steady at 1,673 and there were 2,957 government meeting views with an average watch time of 23 and a half minutes.

Events/PSAs produced included:

3 COVID-19 updates recorded by Health Agent, Dave Flaherty.

The return of Adopt-A-Pet, hosted by Animal Control Officer, Terry Cripps.

A Tree Warden Update with Don Collasius.

Rogers School Tour hosted by Cathy Melanson, for residents who were unable to attend the open house.

Channel 95 produced 2 shows (both episodes of The Magazine by Charlie Murphy), 8 shows were imported, and there were 2 new Affiliated Access Stations.

There were 460 community views and 1,673 Facebook followers for September.

Monthly report for October:

Channel 18 broadcast 19 meetings, and produced 4 new Events and PSAs for a total of 33 original programming hours.

The Boil-Water PSA was crucial during the water treatment plant e. coli outbreak. Additionally, the Emergency Alert Sign-Up video helped residents ease into using the system, which allows for alerts to be sent via email, text, or phone call.

Other events were another COVID-19 update and the Purple Heart Ceremony.

Facebook viewership climbed up to 1,701 and there were 2,088 government meeting views with an average watch time of 23 and a half minutes.

Channel 95 produced 7 shows, 6 shows were imported, and there was 1 new Affiliated Access Station.

Shows produced included:

The Halloween Party Video Announcement and the The Virtual Halloween Party Event itself

Episode 20 of the Magazine

Fairhaven Kids Fest 2021

The Three Hometown Haunts shorts – “The Last Soldier,” “Nightmare on 40 Center Street,” and, “A Portrait of Millicent Rogers.”

There were 3,044 community views and 1,701 Facebook followers for October.

The Hometown Haunts were a particular focus given the amount of work put in to create a ghost hunter show atmosphere. Editor Nick Doyle and writer Alyssa Botelho garnered specific praise from Mr. Frates along with a note of consideration for submission to The Alliance for Community Media for their awards.

Review of Halloween Event and other plans for upcoming holidays:

There was a dip in attendance in this year’s Virtual Halloween event having gone from 50 families attending last year to 30 this year. Cited reasons for the change in attendance – Residents wishing to return to in-person Halloween events, being broadcast on a Friday instead of Thursday like last year, and a competing Trunk or Treat Event. Offering magic kits at the Fairhaven Kids Fest in conjunction with promoting the Halloween Event was well-received.

Mr. Frates brought up discussion of having another community virtual holiday event as there will be no old-time holiday event this year due to COVID-19. He noted that finding a date for the event would have to take the government meeting schedule into account, and offered the week before Christmas as a

possibility. This would place the event around Friday, December 17th. Based on the Halloween event, two hours may be too long so it may be better to plan for a one hour event. If possible, Mr. Frates would like to invite back magician, Todd Migliacci, who acted as MC for the Halloween event.

Action: Work on scheduling the event before Thanksgiving via email.

Broadband Study Committee Update:

Mr. Frates was prompted to give an update on the Broadband Study Committee. Currently, Mr. Frates is working with Select Board Member Bob Espindola on internal meetings to determine the location of the three fiber access huts needed for the proposed pilot program. These would have to be built on town property in order to hook into the current municipal fiber loop. Recordings of the recent Broadband Study Committee and Board of Public Works meetings can help to provide further information.

Consult with Cable License Attorney:

Ms. Acksen followed up with her previous business from last meeting about the online streaming broadcast of high school sports games. She would like to speak with Cable License Attorney Bill Soloman about her concerns if this type of livestreaming breaks the contract the town has with Comcast.

Currently, sports are listed as being livestreamed on Nfhsnetwork.com, run by The National Federation of State High School Associations. The site requires a subscription to be able to watch the matches, priced at \$10.99 a month or \$69.99 per year. The streams seem to consist of a single camera outside wide shot.

When the concept on if the games could be officially broadcast via public access, Mr. Fates noted that that the money for such an endeavor would have to come out of the education portion of the budget. The concept of a training summer camp to increase interest at the student-level was presented by Ms. Acksen but Ms. Powers emphasized that the schools generally set the student's curriculum and that the committee should not push its agenda too hard if there is no interest among the students.

Action: Ms. Powers will talk to the School Department for further information on the High School's involvement with Nfhsnetwork.com. Ms. Acksen will speak with Wendy Graves about obtaining funds to be able to speak to Attorney Bill Soloman.

Other Business:

Ms. Acksen presented the idea of having a similar meeting to the one which happened early on in the committee's formation, where the committee would invite representatives from several channels in the area to help educate the members of the committee. One reason cited was to build up a knowledge base for the forms community access can take, especially for when the current contract with Comcast expires in 2028 and a new one will have to be negotiated.

Mr. Frates brought up that two new groups created PSA's - the Improvement Association and the Lion's Club. The Veteran's Day Event also went well and will be discussed in the next update as will the newest Hometown Hikes video.

Ms. Powers made a motion to adjourn at 5:47 PM and was seconded by Ms. Carvalho. The motion passed unanimously.