

Meeting summary for Cable Advisory Committee (9/25/2025)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The Cable Advisory Committee meeting covered updates on remote meeting capabilities, government broadcasting, and social media performance, while also discussing the need to fill vacant committee seats and celebrate recent awards for public access content. The group addressed revenue distribution concerns between the town and school system regarding Comcast funding, and discussed staffing challenges within the media production program that affect programming coverage. The conversation ended with discussions about cable contract negotiations, streaming services, and the importance of maintaining proper funding and educational programs for the station's future operations.

Next steps

- [Derek t Reach out to local organizations and community groups with official invites for the 8th annual Haunted Halloween Party on October 30th.](#)
- [Town Administrator: Discuss with Select Board the reallocation of Comcast revenue from 56% town/44% school to 65% town/35% school.](#)
- [Derek: Talk to the finance director about changing the Comcast revenue breakdown from 56%-44% to 65%-35% between town and school.](#)
- [Derek: Discuss the Comcast revenue breakdown proposal with the new town administrator Keith Hickey.](#)
- [Cable Advisory Committee: Formally advise Select Board about potential breach of contract regarding educational channel programming requirements.](#)
- [Town Administrator: Address concerns about vacant high school media teacher position and proper use of allocated funds with school administration.](#)
- [Town: Follow up with school administration regarding the status of hiring for the high school media teacher position.](#)
- [Cable Advisory Committee: Investigate the current allocation of the \\$140,000 in school-side cable funds.](#)
- [Fairhaven TV team: Cover the Manjiro Festival on October 4th at Town Hall.](#)
- [Fairhaven TV team: Cover the 175th anniversary of Riverside Cemetery on Saturday.](#)
- [Fairhaven TV Team :Continue filming and editing the Riverside Cemetery walking tour project.](#)
- [Fairhaven TV team: Continue work on the Riverside Cemetery documentary as a winter project.](#)

- [Todd Migliacci: Help with tourism activities while Alyssa is abroad on her Fulbright Scholarship.](#)
- [Todd Migliacci: Have a significant role in the old-time holiday event, working with the FIA.](#)
- [Town: Explore options for covering school events in the absence of school media staff.](#)
- [Derek: Consider submitting the 4th of July parade production for next year's awards.](#)

Summary

Cable Committee Meeting dates

The Cable Advisory Committee meeting covered several key points. Town announced that remote meeting options will be available through June 2027 due to recent legislation. The committee reviewed and approved minutes from the previous meeting, with an amendment to clarify that Barbara Acksen chaired the meeting. Derek presented a report on government broadcasting, noting that 250 government meetings had been broadcasted so far this year, with 375 hours of original programming produced. The commission also discussed the need to fill two vacant seats on the committee.

Social Media and Event Highlights

The meeting covered updates on social media performance, with over 116,000 total views across YouTube and the website Fairhaven TV.com, and more than 2,600 Facebook followers. The team discussed various public access content, including government meetings, economic development committee activities, and local events like the 4th of July parade and the medieval fair. They highlighted upcoming events, including the 175th anniversary of Riverside Cemetery and the Manjiro Festival, and announced the 8th annual Haunted Halloween Party. The team also celebrated their third national award from the Alliance of Community Media for the "History of the Castle on the Hill" documentary.

Comcast Revenue Distribution Debate

The meeting discussed the current Comcast revenue distribution formula, where the town receives 56% and the school receives 44%. Town expressed concern about the school's lack of a cable channel and proposed changing the distribution to 65-35 in favor of the town, citing their operation of two PEG stations compared to the school's single station. The group agreed that any changes would need to go through the town administrator and select board, with the revenue coming from Comcast cable television ratepayer funds, which is a separate enterprise account.

Staffing Crisis Threatens Media Program

The town's media production program is facing staffing challenges, with both the high school and middle school positions currently unfilled despite receiving \$140,000 in funding. The group expressed concern about the lack of programming, particularly noting that graduation was not

covered this year, and discussed the need to reallocate funds from teaching positions to producer roles to maintain the station's operations. They agreed to bring these concerns to the town administrator and discussed the importance of maintaining proper funding and programming to avoid losing the station and ensure future contract negotiations with Comcast are successful.

Cable Attorney Search for 2028

The town discussed the need to secure a cable attorney to negotiate the upcoming 2028 contract, with plans to reach out to multiple attorneys including Bill Solomon and others from Dartmouth and New Bedford. They agreed to have attorneys present their services individually rather than in a group setting, and discussed the potential for HD programming and streaming services, noting that current funding from Comcast is under threat. The town administrator will be consulted about the best approach for engaging cable attorneys, . Derek will reach out to several possible attorneys for presentations. to the Committee, The committee also made plan to explore opportunities for streaming service funding through the state legislature.

Media Production and Education Initiative

The meeting focused on the success of meeting coverage and its increased participation due to COVID-19, which allowed more people to join from home. Discussions included insights from interviews with directors from various stations, highlighting the use of interns and educational opportunities in media production. The group explored the potential for internships and collaboration with local schools, emphasizing the need for a curriculum and addressing the restructuring of educational programs. They also discussed the importance of cable access and local information dissemination, as well as the possibility of expanding podcast and video production capabilities. The conversation ended with a call for new members to join the Cable Advisory Board, encouraging individuals with an interest in programming and media to apply.

Service Options and Halloween Plans

The meeting discussed various options for television and internet services, highlighting Comcast, Starlink, and YouTube TV as viable solutions. Town explained the costs and setup processes for each, noting that high-speed internet options range from \$80 to \$170 per month. The group also discussed the upcoming Halloween event scheduled for October 30th, which will be family-friendly and include activities for children. The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn.