

FIVE TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Representing the Towns of Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Sheffield and Stockbridge  
December 12, 2023  
Lenox Town Hall – Lenox, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller – Lenox  
Dennis Arseneau - Lenox  
Tom Hatch – Great Barrington  
Rene Wood – Sheffield  
Anita Schwerner – Stockbridge

Others Present: Rich Frederick, CTSB  
John Maher – Charter

7:13pm Linda Miller called the meeting to order.  
Quorum met with representatives from 4 towns, Lenox, Great Barrington, Sheffield and Stockbridge.

**MINUTES:** Motion made by Rene Wood to dispense with the reading of the minutes of September 12, 2023 and accept the minutes as presented.  
Seconded by Dennis Arseneau.

**SPECTRUM REPORT**

- John Maher presented the report.
- Thanked the negotiating committee for all of your hard work.
- Urges everyone to reach out to him with issues or complaints.
- Chanterwood Road status
  - The attorney for Chanterwood residents reached out to John Maher and John in turn had their attorney reach out to him.
  - Residents are willing to pay to get cable tv service.
  - The service would have to come from Tyringham.
  - There are a number of residents that would come on board.
  - Spectrum is waiting to hear back from their attorney.

**CTSB REPORT**

- Rich Frederick from CTSB presented the report.

**CTSB REPORT:**

- Rich Frederick thanked the Committee for negotiating with the five select boards.
- Rich Frederick has presented the Future of CTSB to 4 of the 5 towns Select Boards.
  - We are asking residents to send letters to elected officials in support of Massachusetts bills S.34 and H.74 An Act to Preserve Funding for Community Medica Programming. The Select Boards will support our efforts by sending a letter of support directly from the municipality.

- Many community television stations across the United States also have low power FM radio stations in addition to television broadcast.
  - CTSB has applied for low power FM.
  - Question was asked if money from Spectrum would be used for radio and answer was yes, they would use cable money.
  - Rene Wood will send a letter to our legal counsel about the legality of this. Our contract is for cable television.
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
  - CTSB and BRPC will be working together to develop plans to bridge the digital equity divide. The state has draft plans to help serve 14 communities here in the Berkshires that includes all five towns we serve.
- What's new at CTSB
  - Fall Festival of Shakespear was a great success this year.
  - Number of viewers online this year was very high.
  - 10 schools had performances.
- Volunteers
  - If anyone would like to volunteer at CTSB please reach out to them.
  - Come grab a camera and shoot something really cool in your town.
  - They will train people to use their equipment.

2023 was a great year and we are looking forward to a successful 2024.

- We also need volunteers to serve on our Cable Advisory Committee.
- Currently we have no town with full representation.
- Go to your Town Administrator/Town Clerk to express your interest on serving on the committee.

Next meeting will be held on March 12, 2024 in Lee.

Rene Wood made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tom Hatch.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted

Denise Curtin

Recording Secretary