

MINUTES
Towns of Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Sheffield, and Stockbridge
Five Town Cable Advisory Committee
Subcommittee for negotiations of Renewal Cable TV License with Charter Communications
Lenox Town Hall Auditorium
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 1pm

Subcommittee members present: Linda Miller, Chair
Dennis Arseneau
Rene Wood

Due to a delay in having a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Chair L. Miller at 1:30pm.

Draft minutes of 3/8, 3/27, and 4/26/23 were reviewed. **A motion made by D. Arseneau to accept the three sets of minutes as presented, seconded by R. Wood, was approved unanimously.**

D. Arseneau noted the need to have a full definition of the word “complaint” included in the proposed Cable TV renewal license and it was agreed the definition of complaint proposed in Article 1, Definitions, should stay as written by the CAC negotiating subcommittee.

Erica Spizz will be present at the 5/10/23 negotiating session for PEG Capital expense discussion. The group agreed a place holder was needed in Section 5 to allow for revisiting PEG Capital requirements in 5th year for such needs in years 6 -10, if any. This has been discussed with Charter/Spectrum. Need to write verbiage for that placeholder.

D. Arseneau will forward latest language from the FCC on provider’s Customer Service Obligations, to which a date certain, with the notation of as amended, will be included.

Charter Communications 4th Q report was reviewed and their joint venture with Comcast - Zumo Play. Also discussed was the increased use of streaming services, the faster decline of Cable TV subscriptions, and the need to begin a campaign to support MA legislation supporting a tax on streaming services. The group recognizes they are unable to address these issues in the Cable TV renewal lease agreement. It is felt however, that without some sort of revenue generated from the streaming services to help support PEG Access channels, current funding will continue to decrease.

The group agreed to meet on 5/10/23 at 2:30pm at CTSB studios to discuss Articles 7, 8, through the end of proposed lease agreement. D. Arseneau will lead the discussion with CTSB Board members on 5/4/23 and L. Miller will find out from MA DTC if the PEG Access Corporation Agreement may be 5 or 10 years.

The meeting ended at 1:56pm on **a motion by D. Arseneau, seconded by R. Wood, and unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rene C. Wood, Sheffield delegate to Five Town Cable Advisory Committee

Documents used at the meeting: Agenda for 5-3-23; Draft minutes of 3/8, 3/27, and 4/26/23