

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
Auditorium, Lenox Town Hall, Lenox, MA
Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 1:00pm

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair L. Miller at 1pm.

Upcoming negotiations with Charter Communications at 3pm were reviewed. D. Arseneau provided language from the Denham, MA 1999 Cable TV Agreement, which addressed subscriber privacy, monitoring, distribution of subscriber information, and several other sections relating to subscriber rights and their data. The group will work to strengthen subscriber rights, per that language.

D. Arseneau asked if Form 500B, due in mid-January of each year, had in fact been received this year. This will be brought up in the negotiations.

Briefly discussed was the need for a state-wide push to get H.1983 (59?), *An Act relative to the oversight of cable contracts*, co-sponsored by Representatives Barrett and Pignatelli passed as well as H.215, *An Act to modernize funding for community media programming*, to address a new revenue stream to support PEG Access Channel funding for community access TV stations. Cable subscriptions are declining and streaming services make no payments.

With vacations coming up in June, it was decided to create a clean PEG Capital Equipment chart and a list of the open contract Sections, by number and content to focus negotiations for the 5/24 session. D. Arseneau volunteered to do these.

The meeting ended at 2:50pm 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 5-17-23