

Minutes
Five Town Cable Advisory Committee
Negotiations Subcommittee
November 30, 2022; Lenox Town Hall Auditorium

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair L. Miller at 1:03pm.

The primary focus of the meeting was formulating a response to Charter Communication's failure to address all required items in their response to the previously submitted Five Town Cable Advisory Committee documents, developed as part of the Ascertainment process.

A draft response letter had been reviewed and commented upon by Bill Hewig, Esq. of K-P Law, who is the Committee's legal counsel on this matter. His comments were accepted, and the letter will be mailed out to the main addresses at Charter Communications, with emails sent to others on the cc list.

Discussion then turned to how to involve and gain support from other Berkshire County and Western MA Charter Communications municipal customers who have a Cable TV contract not directly negotiated with Charter Communications, but have Charter as a result of consolidation, such as Charter purchasing Time Warner Cable contracts. The subcommittee also seeks a recently signed Charter Communications Cable TV contract, such as from New Marlborough, where a new system was installed. R. Wood will request this from New Marlborough.

Since the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee subcommittee is the first to renegotiate a contract with Charter in Berkshire County, it is seeking support for the items its customers and the Committee have said are important to have in the new renewal lease agreement. As such, D. Arseneau volunteered to list the 70 Western MA municipalities that have Charter Communications as one of their Cable TV providers and provide contact information for each. R. Wood volunteered to draft such a letter and include the Ascertainment Request for Proposal Items document, which D. Arseneau had presented at the meeting. Once this draft document is approved, the cc list will be expanded to include all appropriate MA legislators, MA US Congressional delegation, and MA Federal delegation. After the MA house and senate organize in 2023, appropriate member of committees and joint committees will also be copied.

R. Wood also agreed to set up the previously discussed meeting with appropriate Berkshire County municipalities at the Pittsfield Community Television Station.

The subcommittee discussed the need to press state legislatures on the refilling and passage of legislation for 5% payment by streaming services to fund Community Television stations (__# of previous bill).

H.4045

The full committee's next meeting on 12/13/22 was next discussed with it decided that D. Arseneau will report to the committee on subcommittee activities since the last quarterly meeting. CTSB will report on the Charter Communications CTSB site visit and tour.

The next meeting was tentatively set for 12/14/22 at 1pm at a location to be determined. D. Curtain has been asked to send R. Wood meeting posting information, who will take responsibility for proper posting of subcommittee meetings and minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Rene C. Wood

Sheffield delegate to Five Town Cable Advisory Committee

Documents from the meeting:

- Draft letter to Charter Communications dated
- Letter of 11/30/22 re: Charter Communication Incomplete Response

