

Groton Cable Advisory Committee

via Internet Conference

Meeting Minutes for: 9/20/23

In Attendance:

Cable Committee Members: John Macleod, Eric Fischer, Janet Sheffield,
& Neil Colicchio

Other:

John Ellenberger - Resident
Program Director - Ashley Doucette

Called to Order At: 4:42 PM

Meeting Minutes:

Approval of the 8/16/23 meeting minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

General Updates:

- Fall sports are in full swing. We are not able to live broadcast football at this moment due to lack of infrastructure to the press box at Ayer-Shirley.
- We will be taking part in the GDRHS club/activities fair to garner interest.
- New exterior sign (directional sign along path and logo on exterior door) are now in place.

Discussion Item: Discussion with John Ellenberger about the Dorothy Davis Dedication Sign

John Ellenberger was in attendance to discuss in more detail the sign which will dedicate the studio in honor of Dorothy Davis - longtime Committee member and advocate of Cable Access in Groton. He proposed that the sign be hung in the hallway outside of the studio, in the school, for visibility purposes. The language of the sign was also discussed as it comes into it's final stages of creation.

Action Item: Ashley and John will meet at the studio to take measurements and investigate potential areas to hang the sign.

Discussion Item: Charter/Spectrum Resident Complaint

A resident had reached out in regards to the breakdown of negotiations between Charter/Spectrum and Disney, leading to the loss of Disney affiliated channels (specifically ESPN).

They were curious to know what the plans were for Spectrum to rebate that portion of their bill and hoped that as their representatives we would take up this matter.

Ashley had done some research following this conversation and discovered that Spectrum said they would offer customers who call in a \$15 rebate - with the possibility of that offer expanding if the dispute dragged on.

Following up on this conversation, Ashley learned that customers were being offered \$6 - and up to \$15 when calling in to the customer service line.

The resident had spoken to Spectrum and was told they would be credited \$6 on their current bill and \$9 on the next month's bill (which was only offered after asking how to escalate their complaint). This equated to about \$0.50 a day for the 11-day outage.

This complaint was brought to the Committee's attention for discussion and to be included in a public record for future reference.

Discussion Item: 2024 Cable Access Survey

The committee reviewed the editable copy of the 2020 survey created by Ashley and drafts for the 2024 survey.

The Committee agreed that the 2-sided option was the best.

There were some grammar corrections suggested, and notes given for changes.

Phrasing for a potential question related to MassAccess & the streaming bill (H.74) is still being considered.

Action Item: Ashley will continue working on the survey draft. There may be time for a final approval but deadlines may require submission before the next meeting.

Discussion Item: New Equipment Sign-Out Sheets

Ashley showcased a new equipment sign-out sheets that allows for more flexibility and removes/eliminates the need for listing outdated equipment. With no changes suggested, this new sign-out sheet will be used from this point forward.

Discussion Item: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget & the Future of the Cable Enterprise Fund

The Free Cash balance currently sits at \$63,329.00

The building of the FY 2025 budget will begin soon which will give us a better look at where we stand financially over the course of the next few years.

Recent provider fees have remained relatively steady.

Next Meeting is planned for Monday 10/16/23 at 4:30 PM on Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at: 5:50 PM