

Cable TV Advisory Group - June 14, 2021 Minutes

These are the minutes for the meeting of Harpswell's Cable TV Advisory group held June 14, 2021 at 3:00PM in Harpswell's Town Office Building. Present for the meeting were Kristi Elane, Jane Covey, Donna Frisoli and Peter Lieberwirth. Tony Vigue participated by phone.

Peter Lieberwirth volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

Tony provided an update into various legislative and legal matters. As we were meeting the State Legislature was considering LD 920 - An Act To Promote Oversight of and Competitive Parity among Video Service Providers which has substantial implications for cable refranchising agreements. Tony updated the group on LD920 status and other legal matters related to the group's task.

The group reviewed and discussed other cable refranchise agreements.

Last year's Town Survey soliciting feedback from town residents about Cable TV identified several areas in town where residents indicated they could not receive cable service. Kristi shared a response from Comcast with details about service for the identified areas. Jane Covey and Peter Lieberwirth agreed to review the response in detail focusing on underserved areas.

Krisiti reported on the Town's work with a vendor to estimate costs for an upgrade to the Town Office Selectman's meeting room video equipment. The group also discussed HCBC's video equipment planning.

The group discussed several other Comcast-related matters, including the franchise fee, and franchise related costs. HD quality signal delivery for HCBC was also discussed. These topics will be impacted by the final decision regarding LD 920. Additionally the group reviewed the current locations for No Charge Cable Drops provided to the town by Comcast. Lastly the group decided to request HCBC viewership numbers from Comcast.

The group reviewed the overall timeline for cable refranchising and agreed to meet again on July 6th.

The meeting was adjourned.