

Minutes

Feb 22, 2023

Shelburne Cable and Technology Committee

Attending: Mike Duffy, James Boemer, Craig Miller, Hawley Waldman

Minutes taken by: Hawley Waldman

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Minutes from June 22, 2022 meeting were approved. (3 ayes, 1 abstention)

1. Issues surrounding Comcast
 - a. We clarified that Buckland and Shelburne have been meeting jointly for the past 3 years in order to support having a joint negotiation with Comcast on the renewal of services.
 - b. The renewal license took effect in November of 2022. We received a letter from Eileen L. regarding PEG costs to upgrade Falls Cable broadcasts to high definition. These upgrades would include Fiber runs and studio hardware. The estimate came to a total of \$20,900. The costs were broken down as follows:
 - included upgrading town hall (\$4700)
 - "a location on rte 2" (the police station? \$2,700).
 - 2 Buckland locations for \$6,200 (town hall and the highschool)
 - \$5,700 in hardware
 - c. *After discussion the committee agreed that we do not think that Shelburne should bear any costs related to the upgrade. **This position was unanimously approved and will be communicated, as our recommendation, to the Shelburne Select Board, or Terri, by Mike Duffy.***
2. MBI is planning a program (a FRCOG program) to expand broadband access to underserved populations(elderly, low income, etc).
 - a. Towns should band together to apply for grants to expand broadband to these underserved populations. We could work with Buckland on this.
 - b. None of us have the bandwidth to deal with this but can we find someone to look into applying → can we get Andrew Baker to put it in his newsletter?
 - c. *Proposal:* Craig Miller forwards the info to Andrew Baker plus a blurb for his newsletter, looking for interested groups, sr center, schools, library to nominate. The blurb should include that Shelburne should look into working with Buckland. **This was unanimously adopted.**
3. Letter from Jim to Falls Cable. *Mike moved that we table this* because it was a personal letter/interaction between Jim and Falls Cable. **This was unanimously approved.**

- a. Jim will submit a letter to our committee with requests that are relevant to our responsibilities.
- 4. Discussed the future of our committee. We were The Cable Advisory Committee but were renamed the Technology and Cable Advisory Committee. Now that the new cable contract is settled it would be good to rethink that purpose of the committee and to look for new members.
 - a. Mike would like to step down as chair when the current term ends, on July 1, 2023.
 - b. Jim will draft a proposal for a visioning/new mission statement, to be reviewed at the next meeting.