

Shelburne Technology & Cable Advisory Committee
Buckland Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of Joint Meeting, January 5, 2022

Call to order 6:30 pm by Shelburne Chair Michael Duffy
Attending for Shelburne: Michael Duffy, Craig Miller
Attending for Buckland: Donald Wheeler, Dana McNay
Guest: Otis Wheeler (Falls Cable)

Assign note-taker: Craig Miller

Review/approve minutes of October 28, 2021 meeting: Unanimously Approved

- MD: report from 11/8/21 Shelburne Selectboard meeting re. use of ARPA funds. SB:willing to fund unserved areas, but not long drops.
- MD: Will contact SB to suggest using ~\$85k of ARPA funds to pay pending Whip City Fiber invoice for Colrain Fiber buildout to Shelburne.areas
- DW: Buckland residents connected to Whip City Fiber are happy with service.
- DM: Reports service interruptions on PBS channel 2, He called station and they say they have gotten lots of complains about it. Station says that it is a Comcast issue.

Discuss Comcast draft franchise agreement, edited by Eileen Leahy, Comcast Representative.

- MD: Issues re. Section 2.6 (Equity), 5.4 (Drops), and Article 8 (Prices and Charges).
- OW Issue re. Section 6.3b (PEG Access Cablecasting headend equipment)
 - Section 2.6 Comcast added terms "other wireline services" and 'other authorizations'
 - Section 5.4 free drops, Comcast dropped the word "free". MD concerned that Comcast will start charging, reducing Falls Cable funding amount.
 - Article 8 – Add Section 8.3 Service Tier Listing
 - Section 6.3.b. Add back in language: "the licensee shall continue to provide the access corporation three agile modulators". Modulators are needed for the remaining SD channel, and they are difficult to acquire if not from Comcast.
- MD Motion to discuss Sec.2.6, 5.4, Art. 8 with E. Leahy. DW 2nd. Accepted Unanimously.
- Article 6 PEG (Public access). Falls cable is OK with adding HD channel and removing an SD channel. We don't know how many people would want to use 2nd channel (SD channel).
- OW: section 6.1.e: demarcation point, that is OK with Falls Cable. Cost of encoder would cost \$5-10k for encoder to each drop point, so multiple drop points does not make sense; Comcast must provide 1 encoder at demarcation point (at High School). Instead data from remote location can go over internet to the 1 HD encoder for Falls Cable.
- OW: FC has the option to output the same content to SD and HD at the same time, the FC board has not yet discussed this. HD channel will not be 17, it will be a high number, such as 1017.

Schedule ascertainment public hearing: MD will check with Teri about availability of Zoom account for meeting near March 15th, and to create a public notice. DW will check if Buckland is OK with that date.

Schedule next meeting: TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm