

Minutes of the New Gloucester Cable Television Committee Meeting – June 13, 2019

Those in attendance:

Committee members: Richard Erwin (Chair), Patti Mikkelsen (Vice-Chair)

Call to order:

Richard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes:

The Dec. 13, 2018 meeting minutes were approved with one correction (Richard/Patti).
Motion carried 2-0.

Next meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019.

Public Participation:

None

Technical Report:

- Richard presented his 6/13/19 technical report, which is available as a separate document.
- Richard said that he replaced a malfunctioning Meetinghouse microphone with a spare. He added that his inclination is to replace them with RF-protected mics instead of repairing them in the future.

Referendum & Selectmen Candidate Forums Follow-up:

Richard said that his impression was that the forums went smoothly content-wise and technically. Patti agreed and thanked Joanne Cole of the Candidate/Referendum Issues Committee in particular for her organizational work.

Podium Excessive Noise Report:

Richard said that George Colby had contacted him to report the issue, and he added that having repaired the podium's loose top should reduce the noise. Richard has not assessed its effectiveness.

End of Video Server Maintainability:

Richard said that he heard from Leightronix that they are having difficulty getting parts to repair the model of the Ultra/Nexus video server that we use. They are recommending that customers upgrade to their digital version, UltraNexus-HD, at a cost of approximately \$11,000. This would require some converters to interface with our equipment, unless we replace everything with digital equivalents.

PEG Non-discrimination Bill LD1371:

Richard said that CTAM has been instrumental in promoting this legislative measure that has recently been signed into law. He described the various provisions covered in this legislation.

Renewal of Cable TV Franchise Agreement:

Patti read from the Time Warner Cable/Town of New Gloucester franchise agreement that the term of the agreement runs from Jan. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2020. Richard added that the model franchise agreement stipulated in the new law may be helpful in negotiating a new contract. Patti read excerpts from a Feb. 2019 newspaper article describing the formation of a multi-town coalition, of which New Gloucester is a part, to hire an experienced contract negotiator to represent the towns.

Other:

Patti gave a public thank you to Finance Director Lori-Anne Wilson for sending us a monthly Expense Summary Report and a printout of the balance of our capital grant. Patti expounded that our budgeted amounts are on target for FY2020.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 10:58 a.m. (Patti/Richard). Motion carried 2-0.

Minutes were submitted by Patti Mikkelsen (recorder).