Video Committee Minutes

August 31, 2021

Attendance: Ron Stanley, chair; Becky Doyle, Shawn Talbot; Selectman’s Representative

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Discussion included:

Purpose and Scope of the Committee

Recruiting new Members

Proposed Equipment Upgrades

New Business

**Purpose and Scope of the Committee**

There has been a renewed interest in developing additional content for Comcast cable channel 22, which has been allocated as the Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Channel for New Ipswich. The PEG channel has been made available to the Town of New Ipswich for the purpose of transmitting non-commercial community public, educational and governmental Access Programming to Comcast subscribers. To this end, the Selectmen have tasked the Committee to:

Expand programming content to include public, educational and government (PEG) access in accordance with the Comcast Franchise Agreement and the Cable Act, 47 USC.

**Members**

After discussion, the committee agreed to a structure of 5 members. Ideally, this would include local volunteers from the public, educational (MRSD) and government (Town) sectors. Additional volunteers would be sought to be trained on the equipment and provide content from public events (such as recreation committee activities and other public events), educational activities (such as sporting events, public meetings) and government functions (such as additional public meetings).

To recruit additional members:

Shawn will talk with the MRSD Superintendent to let them know about the committee and our goals.

Becky will contact David Franz, the Library Media Specialist at Mascenic High School for input on level of interest, collaboration possibilities, possible content, technical expertise for equipment, and equipment compatibilities.

Becky will contact Shawna Kutyla, NI Recreation Director for input on level of interest, recruiting a recreation volunteer, and possible content.

**Proposed Equipment Upgrades**

Prior to this meeting a proposed list of equipment to purchase was developed by the previous Town Administrator. This quote contains equipment and accessories that are capable of broadcasting in HD.

The current Committee does not have the technical expertise to evaluate the list and assess whether or not it will provide the functions that we seek moving forward. We also would like to make sure that what we purchase will be compatible with whatever equipment MRSD may already have.

Ron will contact Jim Davis, our current video consultant, to discuss the proposed list with him. If possible, Ron and Becky will meet with him for a detailed discussion.

Becky will contact David Franz to have discussion as listed above (under Members).

Everyone will seek public input as to a person that might fill this role from the community at large.

**New Business**

Additional Government Content

Ron expressed concern about recording public meetings. In the past his efforts have been met with resistance from the various boards in Town. According to RSA 91:A, all public meetings can be recorded.

Becky will draft a letter to the Town Boards to let them know that we are making an effort to provide additional content on Channel 22. This means that board meetings may be recorded to be broadcast. To begin, there will not be a set schedule. Meetings will be recorded based on public interest and availability of volunteers to record the meeting.

Town Website

Becky expressed a need to post and develop the Video page on the Town website. There is a page set up, however the Committee needs access to be able to update the page.

Becky will contact the Town Administrator for guidance.

Funding

At present the Video Committee has monies that have been set aside for the purchase of new equipment. Going forward, the Committee would like the Comcast Franchise Fee to be directed to video needs. This action has received support from the Board of Selectmen.

Currently $3500 is collected from the Franchise Fees for the Video Committee needs. However, approximately $25,000 is received annually from Comcast for the support of PEG access TV.

Shawn will initiate a warrant article to be place on the ballot in March which would direct all Comcast Franchise Fees to be used in support of providing public, educational and government TV.

Additional Ideas

What does Greenville provide on PEG? Is there and opportunity to collaborate, particularly for school content?

**Meetings**

Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm or as otherwise noticed.

Next Meeting: September 14, 4:00 pm

Meeting Adjorned: August 31, 2021 at 4:50 pm.

Minutes approved by:

Ron Stanley, Chair

Becky Doyle