

Minutes  
Cable and Telecommunications Advisory Committee  
March 23, 2010 Meeting

Attendees: Abe Abramovich (chairperson), Ron Comer, Bryan Smith, Jim Williams, Michael Dean (LTPS)

1. The meeting was called to order by the chairperson Abe Abramovich. Both Kathy Farinaccio (Comcast) and Gwen Cogan (Verizon) were not able to attend the meeting.
2. The agenda for the meeting was approved.
3. Bryan Smith was appointed secretary for the meeting.
4. The minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.
5. **Government Access Channel Policy and Procedures Initiative**
  - a. **Review and comment on policy draft document:** The committee reviewed and had extensive discussion on the draft Government Access Channel Policies and Procedures document that Abe distributed. We discussed the draft in detail and Abe captured all comments and changes. He will make revisions to the document and forward to Richard Krawczun (Lawrence Township Manager).
  - b. **Discussion on the objectives of the policy document. Objectives:**
    1. To set parameters, guidelines and criteria for The Government Access Channel programming decisions,
    2. We will not make actual programming decisions. This will be lead by the Lawrence Township Government Channel Committee.
    3. The Government Access channel will be used to communicate Lawrence Township information, programs and initiatives. It will not be a Public Access channel.
  - c. **Implementation discussion**

We discussed how to implement the policies covered in the Government Access Channel document. It was suggested that pending budget approval, we recommend working with Rider University and Lawrence High School to create content such as calendar announcements, informative content about Lawrence Township committees, township FAQs and Public Service Announcements. This content would be created, developed and produced by students at Rider University or Lawrence High. This would provide an inexpensive option to develop content for the channel that we could directly manage.

6. **Extended Discussion:** There were a couple of additional items that comments were made:

- a. **Franchise Renewal.** The cable franchise for Lawrence Township comes up for renewal at the end of the year and we need to begin planning for the renewal process. Very little planning work has been done to prepare. So first and foremost we need a timeline for the process. Michael Dean has experience with the cable franchise renewal process and will provide his assistance. This item will continue to be tracked and reviewed during our upcoming meetings.
  
- b. **Google Fiber Trial.** Google has approached several communities across the country about participating in a trial of an ultra-high speed broadband network that they are proposing to build. The Princeton – Lawrence Township area has been approached, and Princeton is supporting completing the survey to participate in the trial, which involves collecting and completing a survey of our town. This survey includes population, local economy, utilities, construction assessment, climate, terrain, local resources and community support. Michael Dean indicated that he would collect the information and coordinate the Lawrence Township response.

## 7. **Communications**

- a. Comcast
  1. Notice of 2-5-2010 re: Marketing name changes to Comcast TV and Internet services.
  2. Notice of 2-16-2010 re: Discontinuation of Fox Reality Channel and replacement with NatGeo Wild.
  3. Notice of 2-23-2010 re: Addition of new channels to lineup.
  4. Notice of 3-1-2010 re: Pricing structure changes (i.e. increases)
  5. Notice of 3-19-2010 re: Addition of HD channels
  
- b. Verizon
  1. Notice of 2-5-2010: Contact information in case of technical issues with PEG channel
  2. Notice of 3-1-2010: Channel lineup changes
  3. Notice of 3-5-2010: Addition of new HD channels to lineup
    1. ION Worship Network has ceased operation and has been removed from the FIOS lineup.
    2. Verizon franchise fee has been sent to township.

8. **Public Comments:** The committee was informed of the following events:

- On March 23<sup>rd</sup> Abe received a call from a Carmen Palice at 24 Hopkins Dr, Lawrence Twp. She complained about a temp line that has been out and exposed since last fall. A Comcast service person was out a while ago and left the box is open as well. She was told that it would take another two weeks to get the place put in order.

- Kathy Farinaccio contacted the Comcast construction department - they were aware of the feeder line and the replacement was made on Friday, March 26th.

9. **Old Business:**

- a. Status of plans to add additional channels.
- b. New York HDTV Channels

10. **New Business:** None

11. Date and time of next meeting: May 18<sup>th</sup> or 25th at 7:30 P.M. (Abe will confirm the final date)

12. The meeting was adjourned.