

Minutes of the Cable and Telecommunications Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 16, 2010

1. **Call to Order.** Committee members present: Abe Abramovich (Chair), Ron Comer, Bryan Smith, Jim Williams. Other attendees: Kathy Farinaccio (Comcast) and Michael Dean (Technology Coordinator, Lawrence Township Public Schools)
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved.
3. **Appointment of Secretary for this Meeting.** Ron Comer was appointed secretary for the meeting.
4. **Review and Approval of Minutes of the September 28, 2010 Meeting.** The minutes of the September 28, 2010 meeting were approved.
5. **Government Access Channel initiative**
  - The policy/ordinance draft document was adopted by Lawrence Township Council on November 9, 2010.
  - With the ordinance now in place, the committee discussed new steps and/or directions that we might pursue. The following steps and/or directions were proposed by committee members:
    - Perhaps our committee should try to pursue and press policy issues in the new Lawrence Township Government Channel Committee.
    - Our committee will now move forward to help upgrade the content and impact of the Government Access Channel, including efforts to help obtain needed funding, perhaps bring the video resources of the school system into play, perhaps try to obtain interns and other video resources from Rider University, and help develop programming for the channel (e.g., “History of Lawrence Township” video). Mr. Abramovich said that he will reach out to Dr. Barry Janes at Rider, with who the committee had previous discussions about a cooperative program between the Township and Rider University for assistance in producing video content for the Government Access Channel.
    - As part of this increased focus on the Government Access Channel, committee members also discussed the need to poll Lawrence residents about what they want on the channel. In addition, the TV sites of other municipalities (both nearby and more distant) should be examined to help generate ideas for programming (e.g. perhaps a Veterans’ program on the channel).
    - Beyond working on the Government Access Channel, it was proposed that our committee needs to be more proactive. For example, we need to bring to the Government Channel Committee our belief that the emergency communication network should be better than the TV posters presently in place.

**6. The following communications were reviewed:**

- Comcast
  - Notice of 10-7-2010 re: email BOT detection feature.
  - Notice of 10-18-2010 re: Price revision schedule.
  - Notice of 10-28-2010 re: Latino channel lineup.
  - Notice of upcoming FCC rule that the same broadcasting volume must be maintained for both TV shows and commercials.
- Verizon
  - None received.

**7. Public Comments.** It was reported that the following issues had been addressed.

- Eventually, both Verizon and Comcast implemented the requested corrective actions at the Gathering (Princess Rd.). Ms. Mulvihill acknowledged that the work has been completed by both carriers. This item is now closed.

**8. Old Business Relating to Comcast.**

- Regarding the Comcast franchise renewal process, Michael Dean offered to find out the date by which the township must do its ascertainment for Comcast. (In a subsequent 11/18/10 e-mail, Michael reported the date to be July 9, 2011.)

**9. New Business**

- a. Committee membership: Currently, there are 3 open committee positions. Committee members discussed possible ways to find and recruit effective members, including a consideration of what professional skills or backgrounds would be desirable for the new members.
- b. Changes/Additions to FAQs
  - i. General update to website FAQs: Bryan Smith offered to review and suggest changes.
  - ii. There needs to be better guidance available to Township residents regarding where and how to go to get their cable and telecommunications issues resolved.

**10. Date and time of next meeting:** January 18 or 25, 2011. Abe Abramovich will inform members of the exact date at a later time.

Note: The next meeting date is planned for January 25, 2011.

**11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.