

Minutes
Lawrence Township, NJ
Cable and Telecommunications Advisory Committee
September 27, 2011 Meeting Agenda

Attendees: Abe Abramovich (chairperson), Ron Comer, Kathy Farinaccio, Bryan Smith,
Rich Krawczun

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson Abe Abramovich.

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Ron Comer was appointed secretary for the meeting.

The minutes of the July 19, 2011 meeting were approved.

Government Access Channel Initiative – Update – Township has met with media faculty and staff from Rider University (Dr. Barry James), and the development of programming has begun. Scripts will be developed, each script will be divided into sections at Rider, students at Rider will take on different aspects of those scripts, and the production of various programs will proceed. Eventually, a series of 4-5 minute programs will be available. Work at Rider is already underway for a program on the Senior Center.

Communications

Comcast

Correspondence from Fred DeAndrea, Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs, to Mayor Greg Puliti, received on August 8, 2011, announcing and describing Comcast’s Internet Essentials program. Comcast is trying to spread the word regarding this program.

New Comcast station added: “Russia Today”

Public Comments

Email correspondence received from Mr. Dennis Waters, Vice President, Lawrence Historical Society, on April 25, 2011, requesting the Committee’s assistance in transmitting his request for a “free” internet connection to historical Brearley House, which is a Lawrence Township property leased from the township by the Lawrence Township Historical Society. This matter is pending a response from Verizon whether High Speed Internet (HSI) service, formerly DSL, could be available for this site. The committee also forwarded a suggestion to Mr. Waters that as a fallback, to consider a cellular-based data service for that location. We are still waiting for updated information on and a resolution to this issue.

New Business

Committee membership: Currently, there are 2 open committee positions. The search is ongoing and continues.

Changes/Additions to FAQs

Posting of the revised FAQs on the Township's website is beginning to unfold. The creation of a link to the Website has been approved. The current description is OK to use, although linking does pose certain problems. Abe and Bryan will revise text to replace current content.

Trey Keymore is no longer a township staff member. Rich Krawczun indicated that the position(s) of other township staff members will be restructured to assume his responsibilities (details yet to be worked out). Currently, Matt is the township staff member who is running the day-to-day Senior Center video undertaking and is conducting this project with considerable enthusiasm, leadership, and skill.

Comcast Franchise renewal process: Lawrence Township will receive renewal application in November, with a public hearing to take place 60-90 days later (Municipality will schedule it). Abe pointed out that we have several knowledgeable individuals who have knowledge of and experience with the process -- Michael Dean, school media individuals (e.g., Paul), and perhaps others -- who can help us know what to ask for in this process at this particularly opportune point in time and negotiation opportunity.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 29, 2011

The meeting was adjourned.