

Cable Telecommunications Advisory Committee Meeting
March 24, 2009

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions.
 - a. Welcome of new members Jane DeLung and N.S. Ramachandran
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abramovich at 7:35pm. Also attending was committee member Jim Williams. New members Jane DeLung and N.S. Ramachandran (he asks to be called Ram) were introduced.
Other attendees -
Mayor Pam Mount.
Tom Ervin, Lawrence Public Schools
Anna Lustenberg and Gwen Cogan, Verizon
Richard Danek attended as a member of the public to discuss connection problems at Lawrenceville Gardens.
2. Approval of Agenda.
The agenda was approved by voice vote.
3. Appointment of Secretary for this Meeting.
Jim Williams acted as secretary for this meeting.
4. Review and Approval of Minutes of the November 18th, 2008 Meeting.
Minutes of 13 Jan 2009 meeting were approved.
5. Verizon Community Channel 36
Community programming on Verizon Channel 36 & Comcast Channel 19 was considered to be operational and actions on this matter were considered to be complete. This item is closed.
6. Communications.
 - A. Comcast
 - a. Comcast notice of 1-21-09
 - b. Comcast notice of 2-10-09
 - c. Comcast notice of 3-3-09
 - d. Comcast notice of 3-10-09
 - e. Comcast notice of 3-11-09The above referenced five notices were reviewed. These notices were of an advisory nature only (channel relocation and programming changes), and did not require any further action.
 - B. Verizon
 - a. Email communications from Verizon (Gwen Cogan) regarding Lawrence (Township) Free Drop Due Dates; received 2-19-09. Gwen Cogan provided a schedule update for the free drop installations at the various Township facilities. The wrong address issue which prevented the installation of FiOS service at the Police/Court building was corrected. This item is closed.
7. Public Comments.

- a. Jane Canon of Society Hill requested information on when FiOS will be available in her area.
Verizon announced that it does not intend to provide the requested information because it is considered confidential and of a competitive nature. It was pointed out that when Verizon “shows up” to perform the work in any particular neighborhood the preparation process can take as long as three months, more than enough time for the competition to become aware of their plans. In view of the fact that no further progress can be made with this issue, this item is being closed.
- b. Mr. Stan Rose requested information about when FiOS will be available in the Kingsbrook Development
- c. Email communication from Joanne Snow, President, Kingsbrook Homeowners Association, to Ms. Gwen Cogan, Verizon, regarding impact of roadwork moratorium at Kingsbrook on FiOS installation.
Ms. Cogan and Ms. Lustenberg thanked the Kingsbrook Neighborhood Association for the information regarding the pending roadwork there. They said that Verizon’s engineers were “happy to get this information”. But could not promise to install FiOS at Kingsbrook before September 2009, when the road repaving work is scheduled to start. They further added that it is only very infrequently that “road cuts” are necessary and that they are avoided as much as possible. Mr. Abramovich inquired why that information (about avoidance of road cuts) was not disclosed to Ms. Joanne Snow in response to her repeated email inquiries, as this could have been a satisfactory response to the association’s concerns. He suggested that improved and more open communications between Verizon and Township residents is in order. This item is closed.
- d. Email communication from A. Abramovich to Anna Lustenberg requesting Verizon’s support to add external DVR hard drive storage expansion using the eSATA connector. (Note: same request is applicable to Comcast.)
Ms. Lustenberg said that implementing the external storage feature in the Verizon DVR is not planned nor is it a priority. A similar response was received, in an email, from Kathy Farinaccio, the Comcast representative. Mr. Abramovich pointed out that both the Verizon and Comcast DVRs have very limited storage capacity for HD programming, and that an external storage feature would be very welcomed by subscribers. TIVO boxes have that capability.

8. Implementation of FAQ page on Township Website

- a. C&TAC web page on Lawrence Township website
(<http://www.lawrencetwp.com/com-cable.html>)
The Committee’s mission statement and membership roster were posted on the Cable and Telecommunications Advisory Committee’s web page, on the Lawrence Township web site. This item is closed.
- b. C&TAC FAQ posting on Lawrence Township website
(http://www.lawrencetwp.com/documents/DigitalTV_FAQs.pdf)
The digital television FAQs were posted on the Township’s web site, without Verizon’s responses. Ms. Cogan said that she hopes to provide the requested information in the near future, but could not promise anything specific.

9. Old Business Relating to Comcast.

A. Status of plans to add additional channels.

- a. NJN Digital and HDTV.
- b. WYBE HDTV.
- c. New York HDTV Channels.
- d. Discovery HD
- e. Travel Channel

Ms. Kathy Farinaccio did not attend the meeting and no update is available on these requests.

10. New Business Relating to Verizon.

- a. The nature of Verizon's commitment to serve Lawrence Township residents beyond providing the minimum service mandated by the State of New Jersey Franchise Agreement. Also, the nature of the working relationship of Verizon with the Cable Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Ms. Cogan said that Verizon can only be responsive to those issues to which they legal obligations per the Statewide Franchise Agreement, and that they cannot respond to requests outside that scope. Lack of staffing was give as the reason for this position. Ms Cogan said that her office has three persons who have to "deal with" all the Townships in New Jersey where Verizon provides service, and therefore they cannot respond to requests outside the scope of their legal obligations.

11. New Business relating to Comcast.

- a. Request from LTPS, per Tom Ervin follow up email of September 25, 2008, for Comcast to provide 38 replacement digital converter boxes to replace the analog boxes currently in use.

Ms. Kathy Farinaccio did not attend the meeting and no update is available on these requests.

- b. Committee Membership status

With the addition of two new members, there remains one open membership slot on the committee.

- c. Mr. Richard Danek, who lives at Lawrenceville Gardens inquired about Verizon's plan to install FiOS at that neighborhood.

Verizon's response was similar to that given to item 7a, above, being that it will not provide the requested information because it is considered confidential and of a competitive nature.

- d. At the end of the meeting Mayor Mount gave a short presentation on the Sustainable Jersey Program.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting date was proposed as May 19, 2009.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM