

## **Wareham Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes**

Tuesday, March 15, 2022  
Room 24, Wareham Town Hall  
Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

### **I. Roll Call**

- a. Matt Underhill            present
- b. Dan Butler                present
- c. Dave Rogers              present

All members present, a quorum was established.

### **II. Public Participation**

- a. There were no members of the public present.

### **III. Introductions**

- a. Mr. Rogers, newly-appointed to the CAC, introduced himself to the other members. Chairman Underhill introduced himself and briefed Mr. Rogers on the mission of the CAC.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Mr. Butler moved to approve meeting minutes of the CAC meeting held on December 14, 2021, seconded by Chairman Underhill. Vote:

- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| i. Chairman Underhill | Aye     |
| ii. Mr. Butler        | Aye     |
| iii. Mr. Rogers       | Abstain |

Motion Passed 2-0-1

### **V. Discussion on Counsel**

- a. Chairman Underhill briefed the CAC the Board of Selectmen approved hiring a Special Counsel to advise the CAC on negotiations with Verizon. Mr. William Solomon had been retained. It was agreed an initial meeting with Mr. Solomon would be scheduled for 10:00am – noon, Friday, April 1, 2022, and the meeting would be virtual via ZOOM. Chairman Underhill indicated he would confirm the meeting with Mr. Solomon, publish the meeting announcement and agenda, and schedule/arrange the ZOOM session.

### **VI. Comcast and Verizon**

- a. Channel programming changes. Chairman Underhill provided CAC members copies of recent channel programming change notifications from Comcast and Verizon to the Town of Wareham and explained provider responsibility to notify the Town of any changes.
- b. Issues and complaints. Chairman Underhill provided a copy of a letter dated February 7, 2022, from Verizon to the Wareham Board of Selectmen forwarding a completed

Form 500 summary of Wareham subscriber complaints for the year 2021. He used the form to explain cable TV company responsibilities to track and report to Wareham the number, general nature, time to resolve and manner of complaint resolution.

- c. PEG Funding. Chairman Underhill provided the CAC a copy of a spreadsheet showing proposed PEG Access Payment transfers from the Town to WCTV for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2021. He explained how franchise fee payments from cable TV providers are paid to the Town, approved at Town Meeting, and distributed to Town accounts and WCTV. Mr. Butler reported he met Acting Director Christian Fernandes, WCTV, and toured the WCTV studio on March 8, 2022. He stated he was impressed by the station and staff and value the Town derives from WCTV services and programming.
- d. Other. Chairman Underhill provided the CAC copies of two recent media reports regarding 1) contemplated legislation that might affect cable TV franchise fees in the future; and, 2) recent acquisitions by Comcast. During discussion, Chairman Underhill briefed the CAC that Town and library employees had been unable to locate Verizon and Comcast strand (coverage) maps for Wareham. He stated he would advise Mr. Solomon that we would need both companies to provide up-to-date copies of their strand maps for the Town.

VII. Survey. Chairman Underhill provided the CAC copies of a draft, online citizen survey he developed to ascertain citizen satisfaction and concerns regarding their cable TV service. He asked that the CAC review the draft and provide him recommended refinements for discussion at the next CAC meeting.

VIII. Business unknown until the previous 48 hours. None.

IX. Adjournment. In summary, it was agreed the following action would be taken before the next CAC meeting:

- a. Chairman Underhill will confirm the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CAC with Mr. Solomon, publish the meeting announcement and agenda, and schedule/arrange the ZOOM session.
- b. Chairman Underhill will advise Mr. Solomon that the CAC needs up-to-date copies of strand maps from Verizon and Comcast.
- c. CAC members will review the draft online satisfaction survey and come prepared to discuss recommended refinements at the next CAC meeting.
- d. Mr. Butler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rogers. Vote:

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i. Chairman Underhill   | Aye                         |
| ii. Mr. Butler          | Aye                         |
| iii. Mr. Rogers         | Aye                         |
| iv. Motion Passed 3-0-0 | Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm |