

Town of Wolfeboro Cable Franchise Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 7 at 6:00 PM

Attendees: Jim Pineo, Beverly Woods, Timothy Goodwin, Peter Schneider, Brian Deshaies, and ABB reps - Nadine Heinen, Fran Bradley

Timothy Goodwin spoke of the need to connect Channel 26 to neighboring towns served by Charter Spectrum. A connection needs to be made somewhere. Is there a place we can tie in to get PEG access? Tufonboro and other towns would like to get the channel.

Nadine Heinen says a connection is 6-7 months out. Fran Bradley says he believes the new ABB contract addresses this in section 6.2 C.

The committee had a question regarding "basic services" and what that means for internet services. Fran Bradley explained that the contract only refers to cable television services, not internet or telephone services. He then described the various levels of television services ABB provides. Fran Bradley stated that there is no jurisdiction over phone or internet except at the FCC.

Regarding lowering the density in the contract from the current number of 15 homes per mile, Fran Bradley opined that in Wolfeboro's case the density requirement is irrelevant, and that Charter Spectrum will come in where ABB doesn't. Jim Pineo brought up the fact that many of our unbuilt areas have 5 acre lot sizes, and we want to have people have services available. Fran Bradley suggested that developers would contact ABB and work with them, and that in areas that are next to areas served by ABB, they are likely to want to work with people to get them services, but ABB does not want a mandate that forces the company to do this. Some towns pay ABB to expand into new areas.

Committee discussion regarding the upcoming expiration of contract on June 15th. If we do not accept the new contract we continue to work under the existing contract. Discussion about the cable boxes currently in the school whose cost might change; Jim Pineo & Timothy Goodwin will find out. Discussion about the technological changes currently in the works which may make the cable agreement less important in the long run. Consensus was that there is no rush to sign the new agreement. ABB operates in many towns for years under old contracts where new ones have not been agreed to.

Jim Pineo reported that Charter has finished the build out in the Browns Ridge Road area, so they should be starting to accept orders.

Motion to adjourn by Peter Schneider, seconded by Brian Deshaies. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Beverly Woods.