

PEG Access Advisory Committee

May 6, 2021

Virtual Meeting, 10 AM

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the PEG Access Advisory Committee convened in a virtual meeting on May 6, 2021 at 10 AM.

Present were: Karlen Reed, Chr; Court Booth, Vincent Carlson, Ruth Lauer, Scott Hopkinson  
Also present were: Terri Ackerman, Select Board member; Jeremy Romanul, Select Board Administrative Assistant; Phil Lupsiewicz, Station Manager; Carol Cushing COA Observer, David Allen, Louise Berliner, Frank Breen, Gail Hire, Mark Howell, Nancy Pierce, and Lois Suarez.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Reed called the meeting to order with all members present and announced that it was being recorded. She noted that on the agenda were programming awards discussion and possible Charge amendments. The committee will review the Town Meeting Warrant, specifically Article #41 dealing with broadband issues.

**MEETINGS AND MINUTES**

The next meeting is scheduled, virtually, for June 3 at 1 PM. The featured guest will attend from Department of Telecom and Cable to discuss upcoming franchise renewal matters. The Enterprise Fund Hearing will be on May 11 and Annual Town Meeting will convene on June 13.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

- VOTED:** to approve the April 1, 2021 minutes.
- Court Booth abstain, not present
- Vince Carlson aye
- Scott Hopkinson aye
- Ruth Lauer aye
- Karlen Reed aye

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT Article #41**

Gail Hire of Nancy Rd was present as the Petitioner for Article #41 at Annual Town Meeting. She stated that she was a ten-year resident of the Town and an environmental attorney. She stated that Municipal Broadband is available to 95% of Concord streets, but not to East Concord. She believes that this is unfair and that the time to expand the service to the entire Town is now.

Scott Hopkinson stated that he was the person who wrote the business plan for Concord Broadband and that Mark Howell was the Chief Information Officer of the time. The plan was built to lay fiber on streets with already-in-place Smart Grid. Homeowners who wanted to connect were responsible to pay the connection costs to their home. The business plan did not

Call to Order

Meeting/Minutes

Article #41

address the East Concord neighborhood without Smart Grid or the multi-family homes of Concord Mews, Concord Greene, or Milldam Square.

Mark Howell of Annursnac Hill Rd. stated that he believes that the proposal to expand services is timely. In the beginning the notion was to capture low-hanging fruit and deliver the most inexpensive service. The Town's Undergrounding Bylaw is the basis for the decision regarding East Concord as there are currently no conduits in the roads and streets. All services are direct bury and the intention was to install Fiber to the Home when the Town rebuilt roads to underground services. Now that Concord Broadband is becoming profitable, perhaps the time has come. In his opinion, Article #41 is very good. The Light Plant has a large portfolio with many issues to address; community values should be part of decisions.

Discussion included: does new CARES Act funding have a role to play; some language shortcomings in the Article will be corrected in the Motion; reaching 100% of Concord streets is the goal; the original business plan depended upon a fast roll-out; more complex opportunities are only recently being considered; CMLP intentions can be learned from the Enterprise Budget Hearing; there was consensus of support for the Article.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** to authorize the Chair to report Committee support for Article #41 to Town Moderator Carmin Reis.

Court Booth	abstain, not present
Vince Carlson	aye
Ruth Lauer	aye
Scott Hopkinson	aye
Karlen Reed	aye

## **MMN UPDATE**

Station Manager Phil Lupsiewicz stated that in the past month there were 52 municipal productions on the local stations as well as Dawn Salute with the Concord Battery, several National Park Service Patriots Day events, Holocaust Observances, high school football, and *Concord Days* posted to YouTube.

Phil stated that the Concord-Carlisle High School Choir has created a new music video and that their *Raise Me Up* video has been nominated for Emmy Awards in the categories of Best Arts/Entertainment, Cinematographer, and Audio and Sound. The ceremony is on June 26. Phil reported that MMN now has 5,400 subscribers with 3,300 viewers each month. As schools are slowly reopening MMN looks to re-opening the Studio. Discussion included: congratulations on how MMN is growing all three channels; the position of Educational Coordinator continues to be open with no recruitment planned; since Committee review in April, the MMN Budget for supplies has increased from \$7,000 to \$110,000 without explanation; this will be pursued for June meeting.

## PAAC AWARDS

Chair Karlen Reed restated the goal of the proposed awards to provide recognition to those who produce, direct, shoot, edit, and inspire the programming that tells the community story of who we are from varsity sports, concerts, government meetings, plays, non-profit offerings, and remembrances of times past. She has drafted a press release for the event as well as consulted with Billy Crosby of Crosby Design Inc. regarding an appropriate recognition. She provided a screen share of the document and proposed plaque for committee input.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED** to authorize the Chair to implement the creation of a plaque to recognize contributors to Concord Public Access Television in the past year substantially as discussed.

Court Booth aye

Vince Carlson aye

Scott Hopkinson aye

Ruth Lauer aye

Karlen Reed aye

## PAAC CHARGE REVISIONS

Chair Karlen Reed reminded the Committee that one item she has suggested is to reduce the committee size to five members to make it easier to reach a quorum. Is there any response or other suggestion for consideration? Discussion included: general support for the proposed change, but also recognizing that the School Committee has an appointment; should there be a member from the Council on Aging; there are three vacancies available for the new term and volunteers are needed.

Vince Carlson provided a screen share of a McKinsey report that will be distributed to the committee. It refers to the radio spectrum and the effect on rural areas. It would affect smart refrigerators, surveillance, short range locators in areas that cannot depend on cell carriers. Scott stated that this is beyond to scope of the committee and should be the focus of a new committee on 5G matters.

Scott excused himself from the meeting at 11 AM.

## LIAISON REPORTS, PUBLIC COMMENT

Carole Cushing thanked the Station Manager for information about scheduling programming of interest to seniors so that it could be published and stated that the May newsletter advertised MMN and the link to the TV Guide.

Court Booth acknowledged Phil Lupsiewicz and thanked him for his quick responses. Court stated that The Concord Sister City organization needed help in greeting its friends from NANAE and Phil provided assistance that had a superb result.

CHARGE

Liaison reports/  
public comment

David Allen of Heath's Bridge Rd. stated his shock at the steep increase in the Budget supply line item. MMN was handed a "kitty" from CCTV and it should not squander any. If any is to be directed to a new server, he recommends instead that the Cloud be used.

Lois Suarez of Everett St. asked about Public Service Announcements.

Nancy Pierce of Carlisle stated that PSAs could be used to recruit and that it is unknown who in Carlisle is watching MMN. She reported Carlisle Town Meeting is always covered by MMN and the lack of School Committee coverage by MMN is annoying to some in Carlisle.

Court Booth stated that there are several Carlisle faculty members who are active classroom users. Among them perhaps a champion can be found for connecting with MMN.

Mark Howell of Annursnac Hill Rd. stated that it is important to prepare for the franchise renewal process. Comcast will try to get out of declared payments as more and more people move away from cable. He stated that CMLP extended fiber to Carlisle to enable more connectivity to public safety. Regarding #41, in his opinion this is important to define the strategy for the Town. In his opinion citizen voices become muted when action is placed in staff hands and not volunteer committee hands.

Frank Breen of Phillip Farm Rd. requested that the MMN Facebook page provide a link to YouTube.

**ADJOURN**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

**VOTED:** to adjourn the meeting and conclude business at 11:31 AM.

Court Booth aye

Vince Carlson aye

Ruth Lauer aye

Karlen Reed aye

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth C. Lauer, Clerk

Approved: June 3, 2021

Adjourn