

Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes  
January 22, 2015

Beatrice Moskowitz    Mike Guarino - Secretary    Ron Grayzel –Council Liaison    Frank Weichmann,  
Guest: Rich DeSimone

**Administration**

- The meeting was called to order by Mike at 8:10, who noted he had previously circulated the December Minutes for approval; no revisions noted and Minutes approved as presented;
- Mike also indicated there was no new correspondence to the Committee and no new complaints had been received since the prior meeting;
- As part of our annual reorganizational meeting, Ron opened the floor for nominations for officers of the Committee; Frank nominated Beatrice to be Chairperson, which Mike seconded and Frank then nominated Mike to be Secretary, which Beatrice seconded. This will be confirmed with the other members at the next meeting or by email.

**On-going/New Matters**

**Cablevision/Refranchise Issues:**

-Mike noted that the Public Forum was held at the January 20, 2015 meeting of the Borough Council. He and I presented a summary of our ReFranchise Ascertainment Report to the Council and the public. Don Viapree also attended and spoke on behalf of Cablevision's efforts in the process. One member of the public spoke and complained about the limited use of the phone app to stream cable service due to her inability to transfer the transmission to a large monitor due to her limited vision. Don took her contact information in order to contact their Tech support on her behalf;

-It was noted that Frank, Dave and Ira also attended and that the Council subsequently approved the proposed Ordinance reviewed by the Borough Attorney, Denis Murphy

-Rich DeSimone from METV had been invited to provide a Quarterly Update on ongoing activities in the telecommunications industry. He noted some upcoming/recent changes in legislation impacting the industry, including FirstNet Emergency Network, which will limit individual municipalities' authority over communication networks during emergency situations and even regarding tower placement;

-Rich also noted the growing trend of multiple delivery platforms for information and communication beyond Facebook and Twitter, with 11 such platforms in Metuchen. One concern noted was that some platforms are too segmented, which makes it difficult to limit or prioritize distribution of news, etc.;

-Frank and other members noted the need to review the postings on sites such as Metuchen's Facebook; The Committee thanked Rich for his participation and reaffirmed our invitation for quarterly updates;

-Frank suggested that he work with Rich to prepare a video summary of the various local distribution networks and all agreed that would be useful;

-It was also suggested that we review the Borough's website for possible recommendations to enhance its ease of navigation and overall look, which will be emailed to Mike for distribution;

here being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15pm.

M. Guarino 2/23/15

**Metuchen TV &Technology Committee**  
***Agenda for January 2015Meeting***

**Administrative**

- Review of 12/4/14 meeting's Minutes
- Review of any complaints received by the Committee
- Review any correspondence received;
- Annual Reorganization - election of officers;***

**On-going Matters - REVIEW OF /RE-FRANCHISE DISCUSSIONS WITH CABLEVISION RE:**

***Cablevision ReFranchise Process:***

- o *Review of key dates in the formal ReFranchise Process, including:*
  - Municipal Consent Application filed by Cablevision during 4Q14 ;*
  - Public Forum to be conducted on 1/20/15;*
  - Ordinance or Denial to be issued by Borough;*
  - Current Franchise expires on 7/6/15;*
  
- o Status re Summary of Fair Surveys and related Website postings;
  
- o Any updates re Metuchen's Municipal Website
  
- o Review of current Maintenance Contract