

Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes
January 23, 2020 meeting

Beatrice Moskowitz Mike Guarino Jan Zimmerman Ira Grubman Jack Mori
Jeremiah Ostlund Michael Rappaport Council Liaison Jason Delia

Administration

-The meeting was called to order by Mike at 8:10pm. Mike first indicated that since we have a quorum, we could have our annual reorganization meeting and an election of officers for 2020;
-after discussion by the Committee, it was suggested to expand responsibilities by having co-chairpersons in Jen and Beatrice; all confirmed the decision and nominees;
-Ira then nominated Mike as Secretary, which was seconded by Jack.

- Mike then noted he had previously circulated the November Minutes for approval, which were formally approved as presented;

-Jason next noted that there we received an online complaint regarding the recently publicized price increase by Altice for both cable and internet access, effective February 2020. The resident noted the steadily increasing fees over the years and inquired if there was any formal approval process. It was noted that such increases are to be filed with the BPU, but consumers had little recourse due to the lack of competition. It was suggested if we could look into any alternative resources. Jen mentioned she was aware of an internet provider, Starry, which we would try to obtain additional information on. She noted that a town may need to get on a list for service with them, which they base on millimeter technology, rather than fiber and she would inquire about more information. Beatrice suggested that we may want to contact Edison's committee to see if we want to pursue such alternatives jointly, based on a larger presence; all agreed;

-Jason also noted that the Mayor was also interested in exploring such alternative internet resources and it was suggested to develop a Frequently Asked Questions document for use in determining what other types of services residents are using (e.g., streaming, Hulu, Roku, etc.) to provide their needs.

On-going Matters

-As a follow-up to the issue discussed last meeting, then followed up with the Committee on the issue of assisting Borough Hall in a proposed project to transition to electronic forms and records going forward. Mike had prepared a draft Questionnaire to be completed by Borough Hall administration and departments to assess the scope and needs. The Committee will review and provide comments to Mike and Jason suggests we pursue further once Jay Muldoon is in his new position of Special Projects Coordinator.

There being no further business, it was discussed and agreed to confirm our next meeting date and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.

M. Guarino 2/20