

Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes  
September 24, 2020 meeting

Beatrice Moskowitz    Mike Guarino    Jan Zimmerman    Jack Mori    Steve Stetz  
Jeremiah Ostlund    Michael Rappaport    Council Liaison Jason Delia  
Daryl Richardson    Special Guest: Congressman Robert Karabinchak

**Administration**

-The meeting was called to order by Mike at 8:05pm. Mike first indicated that due to the Pandemic we are again meeting virtually tonight; also limited access re any complaints or correspondence;

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

**On-going Matters**

-Jan noted that she had been in contact with Congressman Karabinchak office and he offered to speak to the Committee about the proposed Community Broadband Study Commission. This will be a forum to telecommunication and broadband issues on a broader level, including the following issues/concerns:

-the pricing for both cable and internet access;

-the lack of competition among service providers for municipalities;

Congressman Karabinchak noted that in order to address these inequities towns need to provide incentives; to such providers to gain some leverage; in addition he expressed a concern for the need for cable/broadband quality standards in order to standardize the industry and level the playing field;;

-Jen next inquired whether it was possible for this Committee to meet with the Commission; she also asked if we could send our survey to the Commission for review;

-Mike then asked if the Commission had a website and whether they were going to be listing municipalities on it that were interested in alternative broadband sources. The Congressman indicated they were in the process of creating one and would discuss such a listing;

-In connection with the Mayor's request to explore alternative internet resources the Subcommittee has developed a Frequently Asked Questions document to assist residents in understanding what other types of services residents are available (e.g., streaming, Hulu, Roku, etc.) to provide their needs and will circulate a draft to the Committee for review. Jack had provided some comments and the Committee will be presenting it to the Mayor.

-As a follow-up to the issue discussed last meeting on the issue of assisting Borough Hall in a proposed project to transition to electronic forms and records going forward, it remains on hold until after the Pandemic. Jason will touch base with the new Borough Administrator and/or Jay Muldoon is in his new position of Special Projects Coordinator, when appropriate..

There being no further business, it was discussed and agreed to confirm our next meeting date and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.

M. Guarino 10/20