

Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes
Minutes of July 22, 2021 meeting

Jennifer Zimmerman
Daryl Richardson

Mike Guarino, Secretary
Henry Chang

Jason Delia, Council Liaison
Beatrice Moskowitz Ira Grubman

Administration

-The meeting was called to order by Jen around 8:06pm.; it was first noted that the Committee continues to meet virtually due to the Pandemic conditions;

-Mike then noted that he circulated the Minutes of the August 2021 meeting for review; there being no comments ore revisions he moved for approval and it was so moved and seconded;

-Mike then asked if there was any new correspondence or complaints and Jason noted there were none;

On-going Matters

-In connection with efforts to contact other local municipalities to see if any interest in working jointly on such broadband initiatives, Beatrice noted that she had touched base with Rich DeSimone (former station manager of Metuchen's PEG Channel 15, who remains currently active with the Jersey Access Group (JAG)

if Altice has the power to go to a statewide franchise and if some authority (e.g. BPU?) would have to authorize it?

Jack expressed his view that everything Altice had committed to in the past five years they haven't lived up to. George acknowledged that lot of towns and residents feel the same. They have this monopoly and no one has broken it yet. Jack also noted that it seems that Altice is not interested in cable in the future, rather their business model is heading to internet & streaming and investments in cable infrastructure.

Discussion then centered on the activities of JAG (the Jersey Access Group), which George noted is a group that is definitely standing against the current lack of competition and it was suggested that Metuchen may benefit from being more actively involved with JAG

George closed by indicating that he will keep us posted if any negotiation starts with Edison. Henry suggested we should keep George updated as we reach out to other towns and George provided the following contacts:

- President Bob Dufaller (sp?) - Scotch Plains and Bloomfield access station - negotiation w/Comcast
- VP Dave Garb - Perth Amboy
- Rich DiSimone - JAG founder - lives in Metuchen (former Metuchen PEG channel manager)

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

M. Guarino 8/21