

# Wakefield Cable TV Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes 6/21/2023

Meeting held by Zoom. All votes by roll call.

### Members Present:

Daniel Lieber

Shane McCarthy (taking minutes)

William “Bill” Reading

Eric Reid (joined at 7:12 PM)

### Other Attendees Present:

Ryan and crew at WCAT

Ian McDermott

Patty Bianchet

Ryan Boyd

Brian McCoubrey

Brendan Connell

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM.

Daniel gave an overview of the Cable Advisory committee and his overview.

- It has been a while since this committee has met.

Shane McCarthy gave an overview of himself.

Bill Reading Gave an overview of why he joined.

Ryan Boyd – Executive Director of WACT

Two attendees at WCAT spoke as well.

Partial funding of WCAT through Fiscal 2024 through ARPA grant

Eric Reid joined the meeting at 7:12 pm

- Eric gave an overview of himself.
  - o He was involved in the cable committee back in 1973.

Patty Bianchet – on the board for 6 years

Brian is volunteer with the WCAT.

Ian is the chief engineer for WCAT.

We have to elect a chairperson per Town Bylaws.

Eric made a nomination for Daniel Lieber to be chair.

Bill seconded the motion.

Unanimous approval for Daniel Lieber.

The amount from the cable companies that go to WCAT is declining.

Town Council is looking for someone from this committee to volunteer to join a committee looking into community access television funding sources.

Daniel said it is great to have an open mind and fresh ideas.

Shane recommends that Bill be recommended for this role.

Eric seconded the motion.

Unanimous Vote to approve Bill for this role.

Next Meeting date: 11/29/2023 by Zoom at 7pm

Open items:

WCAT welcomed us to see the office.

- Where will WCAT be located regarding the new high school?
- Like the students- the new office will be ready before demolition of the old space
- Drops and space will be part of the design of the new high school, unlike the Galvin.
- Ryan said the new space is adequate for WCAT needs.
- Discussions are just beginning – make sure WCAT is part of the redesign.
- WCAT's services are very important and needed.

Shane asked when the next round of negotiations will be.

- Verizon Fios is currently every 5 years.

- They may get rid of the “cable component” and just do streaming service.

Brendon asked about the funding of WCAT.

- Ryan sees funding continuing to fall.
- Solution is to get a specific portion of the streaming services for local access stations, like WCAT.
- Ryan gave history of the Cable ACT that passed in 1986.
  - o Franchise fee of up to 5%
- Federal legislation is out of date.
- These need to be updated.
- Cable companies pay “rights to town” currently out of date and from Cable Act
  - o “Broadband bill” - Limits town and bypasses the Cable Act (and \$\$)
- Bill Readings new role will help with this
- In the end, WCAT has high quality content for the town
  - o We need money to continue to support this
  - o Decrease of 3 – 4 % revenue each year with increase of costs of 3-4% annually

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Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Shane Seconded it

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

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Minutes approved 11/29/2023.