

Minutes of the January 25th, 2023 Online Harvard Cable Access Committee Meeting:
Charter Hearing
Approved 2/9/23

Committee Members Attending: Nick Browse (chair), Chris Jones (recording secretary), David Henderson

Others Attending: Brittany Blaney (Station Manager), Will Hopper (Station Operator)

Called to order at 7:02 PM

Hearing:

- Nick welcomed William Solomon, a lawyer working on behalf of the town.
- Bill Solomon suggested that the hearing helps the town, the HCTV committee, and Charter understand needs and desires. Bill welcomed comments from the public and encouraged people to be repetitive with any pressing issues.
- Nick introduced Brittany, and she emphasized the role HCTV plays in public, educational, and governmental service. She thanked all those who were in attendance.

Public Comment:

- **Marie Sobalvarro** emphasized the importance of HCTV's role in filming 35 monthly government board meetings. She recognized this as demanding, and she appreciates it greatly.
- **Cindy Fontaine**, digital arts teacher at Bromfield, emphasized the partnership between HCTV and the TV production course. It has been a valuable experience collaborating with Brittany, Hristina, and Will.
- **Ellen Sachs Leicher** suggested that recorded meetings are very helpful in getting certain board messages out. She also mentioned the convenient and valuable work HCTV has done with the Bromfield Green Team and Arm in Arm.
- **Mark Mikitarian** claimed that HCTV has been tremendously supportive of FiveSparks and was instrumental during the height of the pandemic. The station has been diligent about recording new art exhibits and helps bring content to those who can't physically get to the building.
- **Karen Hurley**, teacher at HES, said HCTV is always willing to work on projects with her and in addition is great with the kids. The children love to visit the studio and film videos, and she's excited about the creation of an elementary news program called Husky News.
- **Janice Kennedy** appreciates HCTV's role in recording the town Christmas pageant and was thrilled to have the pageant return this year. Many senior members of the community

look forward to viewing it. She also appreciated the work HCTV did with the Girl Scouts in filming a commercial about the Community Harvard Project; it was a wonderful experience for the girls, and they learned a lot about hunger relief.

- **Joe Schmidt**, a member of the Harvard Lions, watches a lot of local access television and loves it. HCTV helps promote Lions' events, and he enjoys working with the station.
- **Amy Bassage**, teacher at HES and resident, has worked with HCTV for the last six years, and her students love filming projects at the studio. Currently, third and fourth grade teachers are piloting project based units, and it's great to film these projects.
- **Jon Schoenberg**, a member of the War Monuments Restoration Committee had high praise for the staff's ability/skill set in filming two important events for the committee.
- **Sue Reedich** appreciated the filming of a Council on Aging event.
- **Bill Johnson** emphasized the importance of filming government meetings and making them virtual so the public can consume them. This is extremely convenient. He also offered kudos to Brittany, staff, and the committee for HCTV's work with the Harvard Lions, in particular the recording of the Lions' work with Clear Path for Veterans.
- **Erin McBee**, a Select Board member, suggested that the live broadcast of meetings is great for democracy, and it's great that these meetings are accessible online. She would like to see more closed captioning.
- **Paul Green**, Harvard resident, claimed that the filming and posting of government meetings is simply crucial. His "number one" point/comment was to suggest that CableTV is dying and will end in the not so distant future. He suggested that people who view meetings online but don't subscribe to Cable are, at present, "freeloaders." In addition, his Cablevision bill has gone up threefold in the last eight years, and Charter is opaque about their pricing. Cable converter boxes are also cheap and energy inefficient.
- **Pat Jennings**, Harvard resident, was very grateful for all the recordings HCTV produces and highlighted the COA Story Slam.
- **Terry Symula**, co-president of the Harvard Schools Trust, appreciated HCTV's help with the cider tasting fundraising event.

Nick made some closing comments and the meeting/hearing adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9th at 5:00 PM.