



Granite Town Media

Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

28 Feb 2013

Present: Dave Alcox, Tim Finan, Andrew Jeffery, Joe Kasper, Mike McInerney, Tom Schmidt

Absent: Rosie Deloge, Len Mannino

Guests: Bryan Christiansen - Comcast

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order 6.05 PM

Minutes approved with corrections.

COMCAST Update

Bryan Christiansen, Comcast Senior Manager Government and Regulatory Affairs, updated committee on status of 3rd channel activation and Town Hall fiber link.

1. 3rd PEG channel approved internally and engineering change will be completed in 30-45 days.
2. Bryan confirmed GTM has equipment in place to originate three standard definition (SDTV) channels from the High School and a single channel (government) from Town Hall. The failed audio modulator has been replaced. We have stereo audio capability on all equipment. The modulators at either the ATC or Town Hall can be used to uplink government channel but only one at a time.
3. Comcast has agreed to provide a dedicated fiber optic connection between Town Hall and High School at no cost to the town. This will create a high speed LAN link between the two facilities allowing Mike to electronically transfer files saving much time and effort.
4. Comcast is not able to support High Definition PEG channels. At some point equipment will be upgraded nationwide but that is in the future.
5. Andrew asked why Xfinity services are not available in Milford. Comcast acquired Milford franchise as a result of Adelphia's bankruptcy. Adelphia equipment is different than ordinarily used by Comcast. Comcast has been working to develop services that are independent of specific cable plant. At the moment most Xfinity services are available to Milford customers.
6. Once the Ambulance Service moves office space in Town Hall will be reshuffled. At that point GTM equipment located at the ATC will be moved to Town Hall.

Town Hall will become the primary origination point for all three PEG channels, with High School originating live programming on the Educational channel.

7. As with other municipal buildings Comcast will make TV and Internet available to the new Ambulance Building. At this time it is unclear if Ambulance Service needs to connect to the Town Hall - High School fiber link.

GTM successfully covered both town and school budget committee meetings leading up to the February deliberative sessions.

Town and school deliberative session coverage went well. Mike used the new JBL speakers and 1500 watt amplifier in the auditorium. This gave him much better control over sound quality. When time permits the new speakers will be permanently mounted in the auditorium. The existing Bose speaker will be used for overflow in the banquet room.

Planned upgrades to the auditorium include larger screen and window curtains. Current screen is too small to adequately show presentations to and curtains are needed to darken the room and muffle street noise.

Mike is investigating equipment requirements to provide multiple audio output channels to allow separate optimization for 1) meeting attendees, 2) Cable TV, and 3) EzStream webcast feed. Each of these delivery methods has somewhat different properties. Being able to optimize the feed individually will improve intelligibility.

Mike, along with other towns that use, EZStream met to go over operating issues and new feature requests. EZStream has agreed to increase download rate, resulting in better image quality without unduly impacting viewers with slow Internet connections.

Mike will address concern that program schedule does not provide a clear distinction between airing of new live events and rebroadcast of recorded events.

In 2012 GTM covered a total of 175 sporting events and meetings.

GTM will add Rec Committee meeting coverage beginning March 13th.

Ambulance building construction is tentatively scheduled to start in April; Mike will have the web camera up and running by then to capture both real time and time lapse construction. Committee discussed setting up a second camera on the Oval but decided to wait to see how the ambulance cam works out.

Mike is working with Lenwood Brown III to rework the GTM logo.

Committee voted unanimously to recommend Tim Finan join as a community member once his term as Selectmen expires March 12th. (Tom moved, Joe Seconded).

Dave is having great success working with students to develop original programming. History, Pottery, Music, and Photography are topics currently under development.

Dave moderated Selectmen candidate night forum and posted on the site.

Mission Statement

Departments and commissions are being asked to create mission statements if they do not already have one. The 2011 GTM mission statement is as follows:

“The mission of Granite Town Media is to utilize electronic media to promote awareness of, and encourage participation in, local government and education as well as to provide a forum for community expression.”

Going forward we hope to develop a more inclusive mission statement that covers both Community Media and GTM. Andrew is working on changes and will present proposal at our next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting:

28 Mar 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting room

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: Tom Schmidt