

Belmont
Cable Television Advisory Committee (CTAC) Joint Meeting with Select Board
Meeting Minutes of the CTAC

Date: May 17, 2021

Location: Zoom meeting

Committee Members present: Mark Carthy, Chet Messer, Jonathan Birge

Others: Peter Epstein, Jeff Hansell

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DATE: October 27, 2021
TIME: 9:00 AM

The Joint meeting with the Select Board was a Zoom meeting called to order at 7:20 PM by Mark Carthy, chair of the committee.

The minutes of the CTAC meeting of April 5, 2021, were approved. Chet Messer noted as requested by the Town Clerk's office that the minutes of the April 5 meeting indicate that the joint meeting with the Select Board to be held on April 26. After the April CTAC meeting, it was rescheduled to the current May 17 date by the Select Board.

Select Board chair, Adam Dash explained the proceedings this evening was an ascertainment hearing process mandated by the Federal Cable Act and will focus on Verizon's license renewal to operate a cable TV system in the Town of Belmont. The current Verizon license expires on July 30, 2022. The hearing 1) identifies future needs and 2) reviews performance of Verizon under the current license. The Select Board cannot regulate rates, Verizon's programming, or Verizon Internet services. It was noted that these are important issues but cannot be a focus of the discussion.

The names of numerous persons offering comments about the positive and important communication services provided by the Belmont Media Center (BMC) are listed in the Select Board's minutes of the meeting. The BMC is funded by Verizon and Comcast under the licenses granted by the Town under the Federal Cable Act.

Verizon was invited to the hearing but did not send a representative.

The Select Board noted that written comments may be submitted until June 15, 2021, to the Office of the Select Board at Belmont Town Hall. The Select Board office phone number is 617-993-2690. Further information from this joint meeting can be found in the Select Board's minutes of May 17, 2021 and on the archived video of the May 17, 2021 meeting at the Belmont Media Center website.

The CTAC meeting, subject to the opportunity for the public to provide further comments, was adjourned at 8:13 PM by vote of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Chet Messer, Secretary Pro Tem