

**City of Gloucester  
Cable TV Advisory Committee Minutes**

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014

**Time:** 7:00 - 8:30

**Place:** Third floor meeting room at City Hall

**Present:** Karen Spencer, Grant Harris, Tom Manning, Ryan Sawyer

**Absent:** Geoff Bradford, Robert McGillvary

**Also Present:** Ed Kaznocha (CDC), James Pope (City IT), Steve Cefalo (Harbor Planning Committee)

**Summary:**

Grant reported on ordinances. Karen presented the mission of the Cable TV Committee to the 3 guests present. There was consensus on inclusion of telecommunications into the Harbor Plan.

**Decisions/Votes:**

1. Vote to accept minutes from March 26, 2014 meeting.
  - a. *Approved unanimously*
2. Advocate for:
  - Re-writing our dated wired and wireless permitting regulations. (Grant Harris & James Pope met with Tom Gillette 5/27 to discuss beginning this.)
  - Establishing “dig once” protocols for new development of all business and multi-family building to include last mile conduit. (Harbor Planning has discussed.)
  - Submit an application for EDAP2014 grant for analysis of a plan for improving the telecom infrastructure (see proposal)

**Action Items:**

1. Karen will send an email to the Harbor planning group and attendees about getting in front of the mayor and inclusion of telecom into the Harbor plan.
2. Ryan will continue search for anchor institutions.
3. The Mayor should recommend a party to write the grant for the city. Karen will pursue.

**Details:**

Grant reported about hardline and wireless ordinances. Gloucester does not own the telephone poles, but Gloucester can hold the pole owners within Gloucester accountable. This is done to maintain competitiveness. Per Gloucester ordinance, the City has the ability to fine a company if wires are not properly maintained. The City of Gloucester does not appear to be creating any roadblocks within the wireline ordinances.

Grant recommended that wireless ordinances should be reviewed and updated to better accommodate newer technologies and facilitate more competition. James Pope has confirmed that there are active discussions to update and rewrite elements of the wireless communications. The committee consensus was that the wired and wireless ordinances need to be rewritten to reflect current times.

Grant commented on how all city conduits should be properly documented. New utility construction projects should include running new conduit; establishing “dig once protocols for any

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new substantial developments. This can be done without changing/updating city ordinances; just a change in process.

No updates from Ryan on anchor institutions. Potential large anchor institutions:

- Endicott College
- Gorton's
- Applied Materials
- Lahey Hospital

Karen presented the overall mission of Cable TV Committee to the guests. Grant money should be pursued so that a technical study can be completed by an organization like the CTC which would also address economic sustainability (see attached proposal).

Notes from the discussion:

- Questions about Ann-Margaret Ferrante and Bruce Tarr involvement.
- Ed mentioned that Gloucester may be the only full-service marine harbor north of Baltimore.
- Potential for City Council involvement
- Steve mentioned the inclusion of Telecommunications clause into the Harbor plan
- June 13<sup>th</sup> grant writing due date might be unfeasible, but Karen will pursue.

Fiber diversity was discussed again. Potential candidates for diversity include the A. Piatt bridge and the new train bridge. There were questions about available fiber optic infrastructure off-island.

**Next Meeting: TBD**

Submitted By: Ryan Sawyer

*“Any economic development this century has to include technology, and technology requires a robust and scalable connectivity infrastructure.”*

*~ Gloucester Cable TV Advisory Committee, 2014*

### **Purpose & Benefits:**

- I. Attract New Industry:
  - Position Gloucester, Cape Ann, the Gold Coast to be competitive with the newly installed MA 123 and Open Cape broadband infrastructure.
- II. Workforce Development:
  - Transition displaced workers from the fishing industry to good paying fields.
- III. Economic Development:
  - Establish an economic foundation based on 21st century technology.
- IV. Public Good:
  - Improve communications in emergency situations.
  - Improve educational opportunities.
  - Improve hospital services.
  - Increase options to residents.

### **Regional Plan:**

Gloucester is the largest economic municipality on the “Gold Coast” between Manchester and the NH border. Most of the grants have been given to regions. The other Cape Ann town administrators are supportive. Newburyport is also currently wrestling with this same dilemma, holding “Fiber Forums.” We have reached out to them, and they are interested in any solution to the current limited broadband options.

### **Proposal:**

We propose that we (city or city non-profit) submit an application for the Dept of Commerce EDAP2014 grant with June and October deadlines, requesting funding to create a plan for a sustainable broadband network. Address geographic specific bandwidth, reliability and redundancy issues:

- A. Areas to Pilot
- B. Achievable Steps
- C. Sustainability

**Operational Objectives:** Route diversity, scalability, extensibility, and affordability.

**Behavioral Objectives:** Business growth, job creation, improved public safety, increased education and training opportunities, and new industry.

### **Resources:**

- CTC Technology & Engineering - Serves the Public Sector. <http://www.ctcnet.us/what-we-do/>
- Gigabyte Communities Paper: <http://www.ctcnet.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/GigabitCommunities.pdf>

### **Needed:**

1. Consensus that this is worthwhile
2. City or Non-profit ownership for initial grant, and ultimate solution
3. Anchor Institution buy-in

### **Other Initiatives:**

1. Leverett MA is installing Fiber to Home (FTH), now. [Click here](#) and [here](#).
2. New England Board of Higher Education on Gigabyte Innovation. [Click here](#)
3. [Cape Net](#), [Mass Broadband 123](#), [Network NH Now](#), [Maine Fiber projects](#).