

Comcast Cable Renewal Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes 3/28/19 6pm Selectmen Meeting Room

Present:

Jim Waddell  
Brian McCain  
Ann Carnaby

There were 506 responses to the Comcast survey - 10 of them were completed on paper copies and then entered into the electronic total.

Committee members present reviewed the survey results to determine the most important elements of consumer input that might be points for negotiation in the contract renewal discussions with Comcast.

they are as follows:

1. Senior Discount is a must.

Unanimously agreed to recommend a 10% reduction for seniors.

2. Lower the franchise fee, or get Comcast to add it to their internet customers bills, or cap it and deposit the balance one the budgeted amount in a fund to benefit the community such as a Senior Center

Prefer the cap & save option

3. We believe that Comcast pricing would be much more reasonable/negotiable if there was another carrier in town in competition with Comcast, such as Verizon or First Light, or other. Jim will investigate availability and cost

4. Discover the availability of an a-la-carte system of channel subscription and its cost with either Comcast or other carrier

Other discussion:

The more we learn, the more complex the future of cable tv becomes!

- there is a bill in congress that would eliminate franchise fees and public tv - if this happens, the town would have to pay for both 22 & 13

- if there's no cable tv, we could still stream 22 & 13, but only to a room within the town where folks could go to view, maybe the library or a senior center place

- There is now a Comcast center at the new Walmart in Seabrook where some report negotiating lower rates.

Adjourn at 6:35pm

Next 2 meetings scheduled for April 4 and 18, both at 6pm in the Selectmen's Room  
We would like to have a final report for the Selectmen by the end of the meeting on the 18th!

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Carnaby