

Memo

To: Boards of Selectmen
From: Hank Szretter
Date: January 5, 2018
Re: Cable Advisory Board and Information Systems Advisory Board

This memo is to request the Board of Selectmen appoint the members of the Information Systems Advisory Board (ISAB), as members of the Cable Advisory Board (CAB).

The CAB was created by the Board of Selectmen. The CAB's most important function is as a liaison between the Town of Natick and any existing or future cable licensees. The CAB also represents and advises the Board of Selectmen in negotiating the franchise licenses with whichever cable providers they wish to allow to operate in the Town. Currently Comcast, RCN Corporation and Verizon hold licenses to operate within the Town.

The RCN license has entered the ascertainment phase of its license renewal. This is a three year process during which the CAB gathers information to determine if the licensee has met the terms of its current license and prepare for negotiations.

The CAB was setup as a seven person advisory board. The CAB has not had much to do for the past few years other than screening questions from potential and existing cable subscriber. There have been several open member seats for many years with very few applicants. This has made it impossible to have a quorum for an official meeting.

At meetings of the ISAB we discussed this issue to determine possible solutions. The membership of the ISAB have all necessary qualifications to be members of the CAB.

I even attempted to call a meeting of the CAB at the same time as ISAB to give existing members of the CAB the opportunity to provide input to this important issue. I was the only member of the CAB present.

Therefore, I am recommending to the Board of Selectmen that the current members of the ISAB be appointed as members of the CAB in order to allow the CAB to properly carry out its charter. At our last ISAB meeting all present members were willing to proceed if it is the will of the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Szretter
Chairman, Natick Cable Advisory Board
Chairman, Natick Information Systems Advisory Board