

BATV Annual Meeting of the Membership

March 21, 2019

Tewksbury Country Club, Tewksbury, MA

Directors Present: Greg McClay (outgoing), John Coyne, John Gagliardi, Ellen Rawlings, Connor McCarron, Helen Potter, James Dangora, Bill Collins, Doug Meagher, Rich Scanlon (incoming), Pam Anastasi, Jim Woodside, Donna Popkin, Barbara Flaherty (incoming)

Directors Absent: Mike Rossi

Executive Director: Sam Schauerman

Assistant Executive Director: Nancy Albertson

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. The meeting was open to all BATV members.

*EC 3/21/19*

**President's Report:**

Greg McClay welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that there were copies of the minutes from last year's meeting at all of the tables. Greg asked for a motion to accept the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting, they were accepted unanimously. Greg also noted that there were copies of the President's Report available to everyone with copies on the tables. Greg announced that at last week's Board Meeting, the board unanimously re-elected board members Pam Anastasia and Jim Dangora with a new addition of Rich Scanlon. Billerica Public Schools have re-appointed Mike Rossi. There were no nominees for the membership election so the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Barbara Flaherty for a 3 year term. Greg asked that each of the members stand up along with the rest of the Board and a round of applause was shared. Greg thanked the Board for all of their help over the past year. Greg also took time to give a huge thank you to the staff of Billerica Access Television.

Ellen Rawlings stepped up to the podium and took a moment to thank Greg for all of his dedication as the Board President for BATV and announced that this will be his last year. Greg has served as President of the Board of Directors since 2014 and his leadership has been a gift and asked everyone to join in a round of applause to Greg.

Sam Schauerman, the Executive Director of Billerica Access Television stepped up to the podium to speak about the FCC issue. BATV receives franchise fees which is how we exist and that is a part of cable franchising and it comes from gross annual revenues from cable in the Town of Billerica. The FCC proposed this rule making which proposed that they deduct from the franchise fees any in kind services. They have not yet decided when or if this is going to happen but we are trying to be prepared by sending letters and petitions not only to the FCC Chairman but also to Congress. Sam gave an example as to how this could be damaging to BATV. In Billerica there are free drops to Municipal Buildings and there are currently approximately 50 drops. If you place a monthly charge of \$50.00 per month on each drop and there are approximately 40 drops, at the end of the year it would add up to about \$30,000 which would come out of the franchise fees. If this proposal were to go through, those fees would be

deducted from our franchise fees. The FCC could also place a value on the channels that we cablecast our programs on. Sam read an email that was sent out by the American Communications Association. Sam asked that each member take a few minutes to support access television by going to the url address on the back of the minutes and type in your zip code, name and address which will send three letters to Ed Markey, Elizabeth Warren and Seth Moulton. All three of these Representatives are in support of access television. Sam let everyone know that there is an iPad in the room if anyone would like to use it to send the letters.

Greg announced that Dinner was ready and to please stick around after dinner and enjoy the entertainment. This year's entertainment will be a magician, Peter Boie.

**New Business:**

None

**Old Business:**

None

A motion was made to adjourn - unanimous.