

recommends clip-on, or lavelier, microphones for the Board and a wireless audience microphone, as well as a new modulator. Mr. Potts said that more still needs to be done, but that Charter has responded. He said the quality on Groton's channel access channel and the committee meetings shown there is much better than on Pepperell's Channel 15.

NMRHS connectivity: Mr. Durno stated that school live access connection is critical to the town. Noting that Pepperell is the largest contributor to the school budget of the district's three member towns, Mr. Durno cites school committee meetings, athletic events, drama, and musical programs that could all be broadcast on Channel 15 if that connection were properly established. He said that it would allow residents to see what their children are doing at school and it would tap into the potential talent of students interesting in creating public access programming. Mr. Walsh said that Charter and Comcast need to work that out. Mr. Potts reminded the Committee that Tom Cohen of Charter said that he would investigate this issue, but that nothing has been resolved yet. Mr. Potts said that the video technician at NMRHS, Hartley Pleshaw, is a Pepperell resident and could be a very helpful informational resource. He works for ComCast, but is familiar with many of the cable access problems in Pepperell. Mr. Pleshaw invited the Committee for a tour of the NMRHS studio. After discussion, a tour was scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, at 7pm at the NMRHS.

Committee communications: Mr. Potts reported that past Cable Advisory member, Randy Sandford, had attended a recent Selectmen's meeting and should be approached by the Committee for assistance. Mr. Walsh suggested that we also reach out to Bill Kennison, who operates the sound board at Town Meeting. Mr. Potts mentioned other people who might potentially offer insight to the Committee; including, Dave Peabody, Diane Reichert, the Nashoba Valley Open Channel Corporation, and taxexemptworld.com.

Mr. Potts asked about the current status of the cabcom@town.pepperell.ma.us email address and who receives those emails. Mr. Sauer agreed to ask Peggy Mazzola in the Selectmen's office about the email address and whether that might be switched to the Committee. It was agreed that, if Ms. Mazzola agreed, as Committee Clerk Mr. Sauer would be the recipient of Committee emails.

Mr. Sauer noted that in the past one of the tasks of the Cable Access Advisory Committee was to act as the recipient of cable customer complaints. Mr. Durno remembered that in his previous stint on the Committee the Selectmen didn't offer much support for dealing with or resolving complaints. Mr. Potts suggested that simply responded to citizens with trouble is of great value. Mr. Walsh suggested that the renewal contract might have performance standards that, if not met by Charter, would allow the Town to get out of the contract early. Mr. Sauer asked if there was a possibility of monetary penalties for under-performance. Mr. Walsh said that might be possible, but cautioned that there may be legal issues and that we would need to investigate that.

Mr. Potts suggested that the first order of business for the Committee should be to get the Bulletin Board computer at Lomar Park online for remote access by the Committee. After that, we could directly improve the quality and timeliness of the announcements.

With regard to cable programming and equipment, Mr. Potts suggested that, ideally, Town Meeting would support a small cable TV rate increase that would bring money to the Committee for new equipment and support. Mr. Sauer disagreed that this would be "ideal," noting that it is not equipment that makes better programming, but people. Our first order of business with regard to programming, he said, should be finding interested people to shoot, edit, and make shows. Mr. Potts rephrased his comment to refer to the two extremes of asking for funds and staying where we are with equipment.

Mr. Potts noted that the current contract mentions potential discounts for seniors and asked Mr. Durno if he was aware of anyone acting on it. Mr. Durno said he would ask Sharon Mercurio and Joan Goddard at the Senior Center about discounts.

There was discussion of how Charter current schedules programs to play at a given time and whether it was all done manually or by remote. Mr. Sauer agreed to pursue this question with Frank Schmidt of Charter.

Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2009: On a motion from Mr. Durno, seconded by Ms. Spratt, the minutes of the September 15, 2009 meeting were accepted unanimously as drafted.

Action Items:

Item #1 – Email Correspondence: Mr. Sauer will discuss the Cable Advisory email address with Peggy Mazzola in the Selectmen's office.

Item #2 – Scheduling: Mr. Sauer will investigate the current method of scheduling programming with Frank Schmidt of Charter.

Item #3 – Senior Discounts: Mr. Durno will investigate Senior Citizen discounts with the Council on Aging.

Next Meeting: October 14 at NMRHS, 7:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourn at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sauer