

Cable TV Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - February 17, 2009

Present: **Committee Members:** Richard Potts, Mark Boyajian, Phil Durno, David Pease, Jeff Sauer, Debra Spratt, and Mark Walsh
Members absent: none

Mr. Potts called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: On a motion from Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Boyajian, the minutes from the November 12, 2001; December 2, 2009; and January 14, 2010 were approved unanimously as amended.

Update Bulletin Board Announcements: Mr. Potts noted the progress that the committee has made in the bulletin board announcement “slides” now that the Committee has worked on them. Mr. Potts asked about the interval of time that currently elapses before each slide advances, having received comments from seniors about them going by too quickly. There was also a discussion about fonts, colors, and duration. Mr. Sauer said he would make some adjustments.

Digital Recall: Mr. Pease reported that cable modem system at Lomar Park and the Digital Recall system are both now operational and working. The only remaining issue seems to be the crawling ticker that is supposed to appear at the bottom of the videos to identify and explicate the program. Mr. Pease explained the schedule he has set up and asked for suggestions about how often different programs should be played. There was a short discussion about programming. He noted that some of the programs are available on a regular basis; such as the Rte 9 Veterans Forum and the Gerry Leone Political talk show. Ms. Spratt mentioned two upcoming events that will be happening at the library and inquired about videotaping them for playback. Mr. Sauer asked about the technical flexibility to the schedule on both the Leitronix Mini-T Pro and the Digital Recall system if there were now two or more library events that could play during the course of the day. Mr. Pease acknowledged that the interface is crude, but said that he was willing to make this work. A discussion followed about video content and where we could and would get content.

North Middlesex Regional High School Hook Up: Mr. Durno asked about the status of the hook-up, emphasizing that this would be an excellent source of content that many families would be interested in seeing. Mr. Potts reported that there continue to be discussions with Charter, but that progress is exceeding slow. Mr. Potts will continue pursue this.

Status of Charter License Agreement: Mr. Potts stated that since an extension to the existing license agreement with Charter was prohibited by regulation, Selectmen had agreed that the Town should pursue a new one-year agreement based entirely on the conditions set forth in the current agreement. This would give the Committee and the Town time to review performance during the current term and plan for a new long term agreement. A discussion followed about the provisions of the existing agreement that seemed to have been overlooked during the last eight years. Mr. Potts asked about the three channels that Pepperell was supposed to have, noting that we currently only have Channel 15. Mr. Sauer said he understood Mr. Schmidt to have said that Channels 12 and 13 are Pepperell’s as well, but were showing Harvard and Groton content because there was not enough local content to fill all three. It was Mr. Sauer’s understand that those Channels could be populated with Pepperell content in the future without affecting citizens/subscribers in the other towns since they were receive a different feed.

Public Communications: Mr. Sauer reported that he has received the following emails from the cabcom@town.pepperell.ma.us address:

- ❖ Emails from Bill Moore of the Route 9 Veterans Forum:
 1. apologizing for sending out his show late this month
 2. announcing the November show featuring Donna Chapman, President of Operation Homefront Maine and New England
 3. holiday greetings
 4. asking organizations to register and download future shows (due to financial shortfalls they will not be able to mail show monthly)
 5. link for downloading the Route 9 Veterans Forum
 6. New Years greetings
 7. Forward re: new legislation to amend the Communications Act of 1934
 8. December show availability
 9. Utilizing the Mass Chapter of the Alliance for Community Media as a possible download site

- ❖ The Thom Hartmann Program mentioning two programs available for download: The Big Picture, a 30-minute daily combining highlights from the Thom Hartmann Program; and, “Hour 3” of the Thom Hartmann Program

- ❖ Six emails promoting the Midweek Politics with Dave Pakman syndicated radio program

- ❖ Emails from the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging
 1. re: Eldercare 2010
 2. January Newsletter
 3. Special Citation for State Senator Harriette Chandler
 4. SHINE Counselor Training
 5. Thank you to Senator Moore and Senate President Murray
 6. US Census information

- ❖ Michael Sutton of Rule Broadcasting offering expertise, sales, and service

- ❖ Emails from MASS MoCA:
 1. winter/spring calendar
 2. Afro Cuban Hip Hop Dance Party
 3. “The Yes Men Fix the World” screening
 4. Kidspace Celebrates Ten Years of Bringing Art to the Northern Berkshires

Action Items:

Item #1 – Next Meeting: Mr. Potts will ask Mr. Chris DeSimone to attend the next meeting.

Item #2 – Records of Problems: Mr. Potts asked the Committee to keep a record of image quality issues they witness on Channel 15..

Next Meeting: March 10, 2010, at 7:00pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sauer
Clerk

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