

Cable Television Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes – January 20, 2010

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

Mr. Potts called the meeting to order at 7:13pm. Mr. Sauer joined the meeting at 8:15pm

Status of Charter Contract: Mr. Potts said he talked to Town Counsel, Ned Richardson, about the possible extension to the contract. He reported that Mr. Richardson had learned that the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (“DTC”) would not accept an extension of the current contract since it had reached (nominally) a ten year limit. Instead, a formal one-year contract, carrying forward all the terms of the current contract, would be needed. Mr. Potts noted that a license application was filed by Charter with the town back in February of 2009 but it cannot be found in Town Hall. Mr. Potts will follow up with Peggy Mazzola next week on her return from vacation. Mark Boyajian queried as to when the renewal would run until and Mr. Potts stated it would run for one year from January 18, 2010.

Pepperell Cable Website: Mr. Potts updated the Committee on the existence and utility of the pepperellchannel.org website. He stated the domain name exists but we need someone to set it up. He explained that the website could be used to duplicate the television announcements as well as act as a guide as to the schedule of programming on local access.

Videotaping School Committee Meetings: Phil Durno asked about the videotaping of school committee meetings. Mr. Potts responded that Tom Cohan has asked Charter engineers for a list of all cable drops in Pepperell, including the High School. Mr. Potts continued that Mr. Cohan had been to the High School to look at the cables but he could not get into the Comcast office and that Charter needed a contact within the High School. Debra Spratt stated that Oscar Hills would be the person to show Charter where things were located at the High School and she would provide Mr. Potts with Mr. Hills’ contact information.

Cable Modem at Lomar Park: Mr. Potts reported that the cable modem hook-up to Bulletin Board announcement computer still does not work, and that Frank Schmitt told him that no one is in the office to fix it. Dave Pease stated that the problem exists outside Charter’s Lomar Park office (*i.e.*, in Worcester).

Open Source Music: Mr. Potts updated the Committee on his pursuit of music for the Bulliten Board. He stated he had collected about six gigabytes worth of music and that it needed to be normalized and attribution needed to be provided. He suggested that one slide be dedicated to attribution, with instructions for the reader to go to the website for full attribution. Mr. Boyajian reported that he had called artists willing to donate CDs and have them played. He also talked with Allan St. Croix of Pepperell Music and they already provide such services to Groton and would be willing to do the same for Pepperell.

Digital Recall Update: David Pease provided an update on his efforts to schedule video content on Channel 15. He presented the Committee with a chart setting forth the different options for running various programs at various times. He then discussed in detail the process required to set up a weeks worth of programming on Channel 15.

Action Items:

Item #1 – Contract: All members to review the current Charter agreement to determine whether or not Charter is doing all that it contractually committed to do.

Item #2 – Town Hall: Mr. Potts will talk John Moak, the new Town Administrator, to discuss contract renewal process.

Item #3 – Guest Speaker: Mr. Chris DeSimone of the Finance Committee has volunteered to provide the Committee with an overview of how another town (Billerica) runs its local cable.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2010, 7:pm at the Lawrence Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Walsh
Acting Secretary
Cable TV Advisory Committee