

## **Cable Television Committee**

### **Minutes**

**March 14, 2000**

The entire committee came to our meeting of March 14, 2000 at Town Hall. This included Michael Daitzman, Hal Barnett, Jeff Winston, Peggy Fredrickson, Mark Thompson, Bob Kavanaugh, and the undersigned. The meeting came to order at 7:35 P.M.

A letter from former Cable Committee chairman Jake Kuykendahl to the Selectmen was briefly discussed. The Cable Committee is confident that it is proceeding down the correct path in negotiations with Cablevision.

The state of the negotiations was reviewed by Jeff Winston who has been in contact with Peter Epstein (our lawyer) and David Green (Cablevision).

We have re-submitted our proposal in writing with some corrections concerning the cost of Local Access equipment that we are requesting. This cost has been modified downwards.

Mark Thompson showed plans for the I-net that included having a hub for the public schools at Noyes and a hub for the Town at the Town Hall. An underground fiber and firewall would interconnect these hubs. Our town uses multi-mode fiber and Cablevision intends to employ single mode. We are unsure of the implications of the mis-match, if any. No one on the committee was familiar to the advantages or disadvantages of single-mode. Mark is to show his plan to Cablevision to make sure that they understand our needs. Mark is pursuing ideas Jake had for reducing the cost of I-net terminations. The Town is not considering using the I-net for telephony now, but at Jake's suggestion is asking that the I-net be extended with dark fiber to the Bell Atlantic switch on Route 20.

David Green states that Cablevision currently has 3860 subscribers. This is perhaps 75% of the town. The cable installation does not reach 75 homes.

Marty reported that several of his friends have gone or will go satellite. Apparently, satellite offers more channels for less money.

A committee member has satellite Internet access. This provides a downlink of 400 kbaud with an eight second (speed of light) delay. Other alternatives to our Town include DSL (Covad) at speeds ranging from 128 kb to 1.5 Mb and ISDN at 128 kb. Distance to the telephone switch is an issue on availability of these alternative methods.

Cablevision has been observed re-wiring the town (Route 117 and Water Street areas). It is believed that RCN has also has wires in our town although they have no apparent plan for their use.

theStreet.com had a story concerning RCN that indicates that it "cherrypicks" towns. This is apparently so in Framingham where it is reported that some neighborhoods are installed and others are not.

There are unsubstantiated rumors of a buyout of Massachusetts Cablevision by ATT/MediaOne but rumors such as this have been ongoing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Marty Greenstein