

**Cable Television Committee
Minutes
January 9, 2001**

These are the minutes of the Sudbury Cable Committee meeting of January 9, 2001, that was held at 7:30 P.M. in the Main Fire Station.

In attendance were Jeff Winston (chairperson), Peggy Fredricksen (vice-chairperson), Marty Greenstein (secretary), Hal Barnett, Michael Daitzman, Mike Morrissey (access coordinator), Paul Sarapas (L-S audio-visual teacher), Michael Pincus (Prospective member and professional A-V consultant), Sean McEnroe (member and communications expert), Fred Walker (L-S media coordinator), and Mark Thompson (Town Technology Manager).

Our next meeting will be on January 23 (two weeks) and will include Rob Travers, local A T & T manager formerly of Cablevision. Jeff reports that many of the Cablevision employees that we had contact with during renewal have left.

We spent all but \$700 of the \$15k budget for Peter Epstein, our renewal attorney.

The Town Crier carried an article on our renewal signing which is now official and will go for ten years.

Our committee, Jeff Winston related, must now focus on local access equipment acquisition and I-net installation. The Selectmen are looking for advice on telecommunications in general, and perhaps the committee over time will expand to that.

We need to assure that both the old high school and, in about three years, the new high school have studio and I-net connectivity. A concern is that the cable to the new high school will share an underground conduit. Furthermore, that the phased demolition of the old high school begins with the near future demolition of the auto mechanic facility that is near the current local access studio. We do not believe that the studio will be affected.

Fred Walker relates that there have been problems with channel 54 transmission. Ghosts of channel 61 images appear on 54. A complaint was sent to the cable company ten days ago, but so far no response. Our opinion is that the cable company should be given some slack in this matter (and certain other things) given the activities associated with the new ownership.

Peggy Fredricksen handed out selected pages of Section 6 of the License (also Attachment 4) and reviewed them with us. Important points included:

We believe we can penalize the cable company if they do not maintain the studio.

Mike Morrissey becomes full time in seven weeks.

Section 6.02.d: Licensee must present studio budget by Jan. 15. Nothing received yet, but as above, we will be tolerant.

Section 6.03.d: Licensee will cover Town and Selectmen's meetings.

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Section 6.04f: _Channels 54 and 61 are PEG access channels. We have had reception problems in the past but now, more than before, licensee will have to meet standards.

Section 6.05 a and c: We can specify equipment for purchase up to \$65k this year. Equipment specified must be bought in 15 days and installed within 15 days after receipt.

Section 6.05 h: They must provide us with an inventory annually of the studio equipment. This inventory must include the quality of the equipment.

Section 6.06: Licensee should consult with committee on roles and duties of studio personnel, equipment, budget.

The committee at this point unanimously voted to require quarterly reports by the access coordinator on programming. This was within our rights according to the license.

Jeff suggested that the Local Access Studio put its cablecast schedule into the Town Crier.

6.10: Three times a year, if requested, they must provide an itemized account of PEG funding.

13.06d: They must provide a semi-annual report on the quality of the PEG access channel as it is received at various locations in the Town.

Exhibit 4: Public access coordinator must: 1) conduct outreach to community to encourage participation in local programming. 2) Perform training. 3) Schedule crews and equipment. 4) Publicize activities. 5) Train volunteers.

The studio subcommittee (Peggy and Hal) will meet with L-S people at the high school at 11 M on Friday. This is a regular meeting, after a slight lapse due to the holidays.

Jeff reminded us that the Town must in 4 years pay the cable company \$22k for 11 I-net nodes. This money will come from a revolving account for the committee that the Town is going to create soon. The actual money will be from license fees, the Town, and the schools.

The revolving fund may be used later for cable operations run by the town if it takes over the studio. The town may in three years take over the studio if it so decides. Proposals have been made in the past 1) not to do that, 2) have the town run the studio, and 3) create a non-profit company to run the studio (under the arm's length control of the Selectmen).

The committee will continue to get its annual \$800 expense account from the Town. Efforts by Jeff to ask for more failed.

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Miscellaneous information: A newspaper article states that Sudbury has 5415 homes. Cablevision has stated in the past that it has 4200 Sudbury customers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marty Greenstein