

Cable Television Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2002

Cable meeting June 12, 2002 at the Fire House. In attendance were Jeff Winston, Peggy Fredrickson, James Siket (ATTb studio coordinator), and Marty Greenstein.

The high school and the k-8 schools are going to run the I-net and their current Internet system in parallel for the next year. Jeff has attended a meeting at Fairbanks with school officials wherein ATTb offered the use of otherwise unused fibers to connect the k-8 schools to each other over and above the I-net. This will allow the schools to have a wide area network at one gigabit per second speed. (The I-net data speed, because it also carries video, is limited to 10 megabits per second. Furthermore, the I-net can only be used for local data because ATTb claims they cannot connect as an Internet Service Provider on fiber at the Flynn building.) The Internet access to the 10 megabit system will be via cable modems dropped at each school. By the way, ATTb and the consultant hired by the k-8 think that each cable modem should serve its local school rather than be open to all the schools from any school.

James Siket provided a report of his activities during May and June to date.

Highlights included a basketball game, providing two classes on video equipment and significant student training which resulted among other things in a student run broadcast of a high school basketball game. He is editing the cablecast of the high school graduation now. He personally taped the unveiling of the new library sculpture, along with a host of town meetings and a Girl Scouts ceremony.

For dates on future workshops or to give a heads up on your attendance, call the studio at 443-9507. Town Hall training is planned for Thursday June 27 at 7:30, Saturday, June 29 at 10 and Tuesday July 2 at 7:30.

We discussed buying a DVD burner for Town Hall to allow recording to DVD in real time. A DVD player would be added to the studio. The underlying reason for the DVD is that DV tape playback decks are not really available. DV tapes are \$26 but blank DVDs are only \$5.50. Another town is going straight to DVD so we will not be pioneers.

DVDs can be burned at four speeds. If recorded at a rate that stores one hour of video, quality equals that of DV tape. At two hour storage, typical DVD quality is achieved. At three hour storage, SVHS quality results. VHS quality is obtained at four-hour durations.

Other equipment being discussed are Canon GL-2 digital cameras at \$2200 each. We want two or three. Also desired is a Final Cut Pro upgrade for \$199, a CD player, zoom/focus remotes (\$199), a tripod (\$340), a ball leveler (\$68), batteries (\$139), three color monitors (8") for portable shoots (\$800), and two chairs for town hall (\$60 each). We question whether a consumer CD player can stand up to high use. Also we could use the music channels on the cable as background music for the cable bulletin board. We have requested a formal list from James Siket that would be suitable for our official approval.

July 8 is the cutover to the new headend equipment. Channel 61 will become channel 8.

ATTb actually should have been done by June 1, but the committee is giving them grace since their currently projected dates are very close to those promised. The additional channels Sudbury subscribers are now receiving demonstrates the progress that they are making, and we believe that their dates will be made.

Certain houses will have to wait a little beyond these dates. Like north end of Concord Road. They will be in by August so we think this is acceptable.

We could decide to take over the studio this November (Effective date one year from then).

We are looking for new members to help with public access and other things.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Greenstein