

**Cable Television Committee  
Minutes  
September 09, 2003**

The meeting began at 7:35 P.M. In attendance were Jeff Winston, Linda Wade, Bijan Sabet, Peter Boers, Don Ziter, Mark Thompson, Rick Dorman, and Marty Greenstein. Peggy Fredrickson and Michael Daitzman were absent. This is the first meeting after a summer break.

Rick Dorman, the Sudbury access coordinator, reports that he will be on vacation from October 23 until the first Monday in November.

A light had been stolen from the studio. A replacement is on order according to ComCast.

There have been a number of people in to see Rick about doing shows on the access channel, but there has been no follow-up so far. Among the proposed shows is one on the Buddy Dog animal shelter.

A high school dad is shooting the high school lacrosse and hockey games this year.

Mark Minasian (Hudson ComCast coordinator) will be at Sudbury day which is noon to five. Two high school volunteers will be there with a DV camera. We will be handing out tee shirts, some of which were given out to the committee members. These tee shirts were heavily subsidized by ComCast under the condition, fulfilled, that the name ComCast show up prominently on the back.

The Hope Sudbury telethon will be November 15 from noon until 8 P.M. It will be taking video feeds from the studio and the auditorium.

This Thursday a show will be made on Issue 54, a Sudbury tax issue. The September 11 ceremony will also be taped that day.

Rick wants a new character generator, a backlight so that people will look more three dimensional, and a wireless microphone. The Shure brand mike he wants is about \$1000. He was asked to ascertain precise models and approximate costs.

Linda would like us to get Photoshop. It is possible we will go for Photoshop Elements, a significantly cheaper version with most of the capabilities of full Photoshop. Jeff will look into whether ComCast can get a cheap price on the full version.

The town wants the tapes of the last town meeting. Rick will give them.

The curtain for the town hall is on order. It will be Chromablue. It has been on order since June but apparently it should be ready soon. Jeff needs signatures from committee to authorize payment.

The fiber optic cable to the new DPW building is still not installed despite the accomplished installation of the underground TV cable. ComCast charging town \$15,000 for the I-Net cable attachment. The purchase order from the town was given to ComCast last July.

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The town has a (limited) IP telephone system over the I-net. The geographic information system software has not yet been purchased. The I-net is not currently being used for video. The I-Net itself is working without problems.

Jeff went to a state Local Access hearing at Assabet High School last summer. His impression is that ComCast does not staff local access outside of New England. They do support it financially elsewhere however.

There were four to five customer complaints this summer out of thousands of subscribers.

Comcast attempted to pass along claimed increased supervisory costs onto us, decreasing support for Local Access. We told them this violates the license agreement which calls for specific breakdown of costs. Also some of the costs they are trying to pass on are specifically prohibited by our license.

In support of truth, justice, and the American way, a committee member (me) gave an impassioned, but short, speech on truth in marketing. It was stressed that our position as the best advisory committee in the nation requires us to lead an effort to force ComCast to provide better and more complete information to customers who contact them. Apparently the State Cable Commission is already concerned about cramming. That is, the cable company is not always being straightforward about their products in communications with individual consumers, either over the telephone or via their installers.

Rick is getting a cable modem for the station. His phone was out for ten days but was fixed quickly once ComCast decided to notify the phone company.

November, 2003 is the first opportunity under the license to formally notify ComCast that we want to take possession of the local access station. We are undecided.

We adjourned at 9:10 PM after an exciting tale of cable installation by one of our members, perhaps best entitled "Why I Have a Satellite Antenna on my Roof".

Cheerfully, but respectfully, submitted,

Marty Greenstein

Secretary , Cable Committee