

**Cable Television Committee
Minutes
January 13, 2004**

These are the minutes of the Sudbury Cable Advisory Committee meeting on January 13, 2004 at the Fire House. In attendance were Jeff Winston, Peggy Fredrickson, Peter Boers, Linda Wade, Michael Daitzman, Mark Thompson (Technology Administrator) and Marty Greenstein. We convened at 7:30 P.M.

The current studio access coordinator Rick Dorman is quitting going to a studio closer to his home. Comcast has a number of internal candidates that we hope to (informally) interview for the job.

Peggy believes that the studio should be open at least one evening a week to provide access to those of us who work day jobs. Weekend hours should also be a requirement.

Part-timers might be good, but some believe we should have a consistent "face". We want someone technically adept. There is a woman who is an 11-year veteran who has been identified as a candidate by Comcast.

Since the review is by the good graces of Comcast, we have to make sure that they are non-confrontational, non-threatening, and a joy to the candidate. We need to sell them on Sudbury. Our points are that the studio will be completely theirs, that we have money to spend on equipment, etc. A disadvantage that we have is that Sudbury has not had many volunteers step forward to make shows.

Rick told Linda that Comcast has not yet posted the job opening.

Jeff to question that.

The Mac in the studio is 733 megaHz and can burn CDs.

Starting Friday, the Goodnow library will have wireless access points allowing free access to anyone with their own Internet-enabled portable device. Note that any device that "connects" can be accessed if no protections are implemented on the device.

Meanwhile, the idea of putting camera equipment in the library meeting room is dead for now.

No money and a lack of enthusiasm from the library trustees are the reasons.

We have about \$20,000 in capital for this year. We also have \$5k in a revolving account.

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The viewership of the local access channel is unknown to us but traditionally we have believed what is wanted is local sports and government meetings. It is unknown what the attractiveness of other shows would be. We do know that the Sudbury telethon viewership was high.

Perhaps we should put money into the studio at the new high school to make it more attractive to use. At the current studio, a problem is that the high school students use it too. The new high school should be open for the next school year. Perhaps access will be available in four months or so according to some comments we have heard.

The Town Hall curtain is still not delivered.

The video I-net has only one access point per school building so the video carried on it cannot be distributed to the classrooms. It needs to be connected to the closed circuit TV system that is in the various buildings, such as Curtis Middle School. Mark to talk to Bob Kavanaugh about it and to offer the support of our committee.

Comcast gave us the \$1000 for the Sudbury Day tee shirts.

Jeff visited Comcast in Chelmsford. They have equipment that monitors the cable system for local outages. They are excited about new technologies, like telephony. Comcast seems to think that the local issues are minor compared to the technical issues.

We have not gotten a complaint about customer service in at least six months. This may indicate that Comcast has improved.

A bunch of tapes have been found in the studio dating back to 1999. Historical Society people will be contacted.

Mike predicts that local access will go away since Comcast will lobby for it.

Wayland's bottom tier is \$6 where ours is about \$11. The lowest tier is regulated. The rates have been locked in with only inflationary increases for about ten years. The disparity probably dates to a time when the cable system in Wayland had less to offer. Now it is about the same. The tiers above that are about the same.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 10.

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Meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Greenstein