

Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of August 30, 2010

Present for the Cable Committee were: Louis Rousseau, Hank Noel, Ted Kosiavelon, Christopher Ferguson, Kevin Willett and Lenny Proposki. Also present were: Dennis E. Piendak, Town Manager and Samantha Carver the recording secretary. The meeting was held at the Richardson Room in Harmony Hall located at 1660 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA.

Absent: Dan Picard

Mr. Piendak opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. He introduced himself and Mrs. Carver to the Committee. The Committee Members introduced themselves. Mr. Piendak had several handouts for the Committee. The following items were handed out and explained to the Committee:

- Cable Advisory Committee Member List
- Open Meeting Law
- Brochure on Conflict of Interest Law
- Conflict of Interest information from Town Clerk Kathy Graham
- Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation Fact Sheet on Cable Advisory Committee(s) referencing M.G.L. 166
- Dracut's Cable Television 10-Year Franchise Agreement with Comcast

Mr. Piendak explained that by the next meeting or the one after the Committee will organize and determine who the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee will be. The function of the Chair is to basically run the meeting and handle any complaints received by the residents. They are the point person for the Town to be in contact with. Mr. Piendak explained that at the next meeting he'll have a couple of the former members of the Cable Committee in to talk with the Committee and answer any questions on the role of this committee. Then at a subsequent meeting Mr. Piendak suggested inviting Tim Kelly of Comcast in who is Town's contact person for dealing with issues with the cable service.

There was a brief discussion on why Verizon Fios has not come into Dracut. Mr. Piendak explained that they have not approached the Town and feels that it may be an economic reason by Verizon. They would have to come in and wire the entire town and there is no guarantee they'd get the majority of the customers to switch to Fios. The Town is not keeping Fios out they need to provide a level of service that is equal to Comcast to make for a level playing field sort of speak, they couldn't come in and just run cables in the most densely populated areas of the Town and not in other areas.

Mr. Ferguson noted that the franchise agreement with Comcast is up in 2016 which would mean negotiations probably start two years earlier. He suggested that maybe an area on the Town's website could be set up for residents who may have complaints about their cable service and then when it comes time to negotiate a new franchise agreement with Comcast a data report can be printed and given to Comcast to make them aware of issues in Town and quite possibly used as a negotiation tool.

The next meeting date was discussed and determined to be October 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Cable Advisory Committee












