

Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of December 12, 2012

Present for the Cable Committee were: Chairman Christopher Ferguson, Vice Chair Hank Noel, Ted Kosiavelon, Lenny Proposki, Louis Rousseau and Gordon Lutz. 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.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:17 p.m. The Chairman introduced and welcomed Gordon Lutz a new member of the Cable Advisory Meeting.

INET

Mr. Piendak explained that he has been asked by Superintendent Stone to come into to discuss the Inet with the Committee and the representative from Comcast. Mr. Piendak stated he can email Tim Kelly and set up a date in January for this meeting. The Committee asked if there was a map or diagram of the INET system that the Committee could see. As part of the discussion they would like to find out what the band width, growth and capacity of the INET is.

The secretary will notify the Committee when a date has been determined but it would be after the holidays.

Cable Contract Review

The Committee has reviewed the first four sections of the contract. Mr. Ferguson asked the Committee if they understood the sections and if they had any questions they'd like to discuss. One of the Committee Members asked how the Town gets notified to renew the contract. Mr. Piendak explained that about eighteen months before the end of this contract the Board of Selectmen get notified that Comcast would like to negotiate a new contract. The initial contract was for fifteen years however the renewals are normally ten years in length.

Mr. Ferguson explained that although the Committee cannot negotiate rates they can try to negotiate the PEG funding and compare to other towns to make sure Dracut is getting what the other towns are. There was a discussion as to Licensee versus Subscribers. The Subscribers are customers of Comcast and the Town is the Licensee with Comcast.

There was a discussion as to what types of things the Committee can negotiate. Mr. Ferguson stated that they want to make sure there is adequate funding for the PEG fund. Mr. Ferguson knows that DATV is outgrowing their space and may need to move. They want to be able to have adequate funds for them to be able to do this. Mr. Piendak also pointed out one thing the Committee may want to negotiate is another cable station for the Community if it's needed.

There was a discussion amongst the Committee to reach out to other Cable Advisory Groups to see what they have negotiated in their town. Mr. Ferguson stated that he had already reached out to Westford and North Andover. Mr. Noel stated that he will talk with Lowell and Tewksbury.

The Committee discussed coming up with a list of questions and then talking to each community to see what they had negotiated. There was a discussion to have Tim Kelly and Superintendent Stone at the next meeting to discuss the technology needs of the Schools and the INET issue.

Minutes

Mr. Rousseau made a motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2012 as presented. Mr. Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried with four votes in favor.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2012 as presented. Mr. Proposki seconded the motion. The motion carried with three votes in favor.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2011 as presented. Mr. Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

	
	
	