

*Minutes of the August 24, 1999 meeting*

In attendance tonight were Doug Smith, Hal Barnett, Peggy Frederickson, Richard Pinal, Bob Kavanagh, Mark Thompson, Hans Lopater, Jeff Winston, Caroline Kurk (first time observer), and Marty Greenstein.

Doug reported that the Selectmen approved \$15k for Peter Epstein, the lawyer. Doug also met with Tom Steele of RCN and Kathleen (Kip) Mayo and David Greene of Cablevision. Old friendships were renewed between our Town and these companies. Nothing new to report other than Cablevision is enthusiastic about Local Access, and that Acton has put in an isolated I-net, fiber to their buildings.

The action is for Peggy to instruct Peter Epstein to make first contact with Cablevision (he is to tell us what that is). Furthermore, Peggy is to provide Peter with a list of Sudbury issues. As an aid to Peggy, here are issues for the renewal:

1. Coverage of town.
2. Line extension policy
3. Quality of Signal
4. Modernization of converter boxes (A/B wiring????)
5. Appearance of wires on poles, underground wiring
6. Lifeline rate (Jake put this into his license, see what Peter says)
7. Turning over of studio to the Town
8. 5% fee to town, auditing of revenues, include Internet revenues
9. Video coverage of town events (Local Origin programming)
10. Four PEG channels, connected to Lincoln, completely dedicated to us.
11. Dispute resolution
12. Schedule
13. Speed to repair
14. I-net -- Build and run

I am sure that I am forgetting a number of issues. Please contribute ones that I left out. Peggy will ask Peter to suggest another town that we could base our contract on given the above (and other) concerns.

Caroline said that River Ridge Road and Lincoln Lane remain unwired. Jeff said that a survey showed that the people there had satellite dishes so Cablevision didn't think it was worth extending. However, these people might well be interested in cable if it gave them Internet and phone.

Cablevision is undecided on providing telephone service, but will be doing first Internet service starting in October and using Optimum On-line company as ISP.

Question before committee is should I-net be fiber right to public buildings or should it reduce to coax prior to building entry. Reducing to coax lowers throughput but saves at least \$12k on demodulator. Jeff questioned whether extra expense of full fiber network worth it since it would be out-of-date soon. I don't believe he stated why it

would be out of date, but the committee asked Mark Thompson to provide a list of services that the I-net could furnish to the town and a cost/benefit analysis of the I-net. Doug suggested that Mark ask Cablevision for help with this and Hal volunteered to help too.

We also had a discussion of Local Access. Jeff wants town employees to do it. Hans expressed support for Cablevision being contracted to run it with, I believe, the studio belonging to the Town. Jeff did not want Cablevision involved with Local Access any longer. Marty reminded the committee that he is preparing a business plan for non-profit company. Doug asked Marty to segment the plan into the supply of current Local Access activities such as meeting coverage and a section on new activities. Peggy spoke and agreed that a problem is that volunteers are hard to get.

We discussed having cable company people to come see us again. Decision was to put this off to October. We are definitely going to continue to pursue both companies, but we are thinking that we may ask Cablevision for I-net simply because we are likely to be able to get it within the year 2000 whereas RCN is more iffy with the time frame. To explain, Cablevision believes that they can construct in about a month given that their old system will be used as a base.

Next meeting, September 14, a Tuesday.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Greenstein