

**Cable Television Committee  
Minutes  
April 25, 2000**

On April 25, 2000, 7:30 PM, the Sudbury Cable Committee met at Town Hall. Assembled were Jeff Winston, Peggy Fredericksen, Hal Barnett, Michael Daitzman, Mark Thompson, and our lawyer Peter Epstein.

We discussed with Peter five topics as part of a formal agenda:

**1. The buyout of Cablevision by ATT/Media-One**

This is considered to be good vis-a-vis both the cable modems and should be advantageous to us in our seeking best terms for the renewal. We do not expect a delay in our renewal efforts due to this.

**2. Cablevision's desire for a Level Playing Field provision in the new license.**

Jeff to obtain wording from Peter direct from the Brookline Cablevision license.

**3. The option for Sudbury to take over the Local Access Station.**

We do not agree with Cablevision's desire for 3-4 year wait from date of license renewal. We believe their position is due to their interest in depreciating equipment that they buy for the station this year.

**4. Cablevision's desire for a provision in the new license to allow them to act as a Telecom provider.**

Dearborn Michigan received a few months ago from Federal Appellate court a confirmation that they were able to hold their cable provider (TCI, a part of AT&T) to their local telecom ordinance. This was in reaction to an apparent move by TCI to provide services to businesses in their city. However, there were lots of special considerations that may not apply to Sudbury. For instance, TCI's actions predated the 1986 Telecom Act and Dearborn had given a telecom franchise to a telephone operator. Peter believes that it might be possible for Sudbury to pass a non-discriminatory telecom bylaw. This could, for instance, force companies to provide equivalent service to all residents. However, we should be prepared to face a court challenge to any law that might financially affect such a company.

The MA town of Gardner gave Cablevision a telecommunication license provision. This is an isolated incident, Peter thinks.

**5. Liquidating damages**

Media One, Peter claimed, does not object to such clauses in their licenses.

The recording secretary had to leave prior to meeting's end. At that time the meeting was entering a discussion of financial details concerning the renewal.

This was executive session so cannot be placed in the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Greenstein