

**Cable Television Committee  
Minutes  
February 8, 2000**

These are the minutes of the cable committee meeting for Feb. 8, 2000 that was held at the Town Hall and began at 7:40 PM. In attendance were Bob Kavanaugh, Peggy Fredericksen, Jeff Winston, and me along with guests Mike Morrissey and Rob Travers of Cablevision. Rob is the Director of Programming for CV and can be e-mailed at rtravers@cablevision.com. Mike is our new Local Access Coordinator.

Rob spoke and reaffirmed Cablevision's commitment to Local Access. They are interested in doing more programming. To encourage volunteers, the company will no longer insist that they take a course that provides proficiency on all studio equipment. Instead, they will offer workshops in individual skills such as cameras.

Rob continued to say that they are also beginning to do regional cooperative programming. This appears on channel 29. For instance, Thursday evenings is Optimum Sports, a show that contains sports highlights sent in from various high schools. This show is very popular.

Also is a show providing help on the MCAS exams. In Boston, there is a call-in hotline.

Jeff asked, "Why was the studio left dark for five weeks?" This is a reference to the unexpected (by us) departure of Nate, the former coordinator. Rob replied that C/V had a staffing problem.

Mike then introduced himself. He will be at the studio most weekday afternoons. He has experience as a free-lance photographer, a non-linear editor, an executive producer, and has worked for channels 4, 7, New England Cable News, 38, FSN sports, ESPN, etc. This is a partial list of talents and employers.

He has divided up the station into learning areas. Lighting has been improved and the studio now has an anchor desk. C/V has given him a significant amount of equipment recently (not itemized). Next week, he will be producing a show starring Dr. Ritchie. Last week and tomorrow, a basketball game. He televised the Selectman's debate at the Wayside Inn. He hopes to do the League of Women's Voters, a special school committee meeting, and possibly an election night special.

Mike worked in the Arlington studio until moving to Lexington (recently). He sees great potential for our studio and thinks of it as a greater challenge than the Lexington one which is more established. He hopes to encourage volunteers by demonstrating what can be done by the shows that he is producing now.

Mike discovered last week that the cable connection to Town Hall is broken.

Various suggestions were made to Mike. Among them were:

Jeff: Put schedule into Town Crier.

Peggy: Cover library programs, have a predictable show schedule but stagger times or repeat broadcasts so that people can see the shows at times convenient to them. After 11 PM is prime time in Sudbury.

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Mike said that the station now has 24 hour playback capability.

On the side he mentioned that his wife runs (?) an Australian children's foundation. They have produced a pre-school show somewhat like Sesame Street that he may put on.

Peggy: The reception of channel 61 is not good. At her house, the images are very wavy. Rob said that "Victor" has been working on it. Peggy reiterated that the picture has been lousy for as long as she can remember.

Peggy also said that the library is very interested in live origination. Particularly for the Sunday afternoon presentations.

Rob said that the schools want the Discovery, History, and the CNN channels. They have six modulators and would like to use three of them for those stations.

At this point Rob and Mike left.

A short discussion of the Channel 54 Satellite dish and its timer that are located at the high school ensued. The equipment belongs to the high school. The committee believes that it is therefore the responsibility of the high school to re-aim it and maintain it. At least one middle school teacher wants to view professional education over the channel but cannot so long as the current state of non-reception exists.

Rob and Jeff discussed data transfer and security requirements of the schools. Confidentiality of student records is very important, but very high speed is not. Hence a virtual private network may provide adequate security.

Jeff made contact with the head of the Acton cable committee (a Mr. Covert???). Acton has been running an I-net over a TV cable frequency slot for a number of years. (Broadband I-net).

Acton is still negotiating their contract which is not much past a first draft.

Bob K. then left as the committee went on to discuss our plan to equip Town Hall with video origination equipment to cover meetings. Peggy presented her proposal that included cameras, microphones, mixing, lighting, recording, editing, and other equipment. We were surprised at the amount of equipment that one could obtain for the amount of money we had in mind. Jeff believes that a closet near the men's room had ample size to be a control room.

Marty asked if the video could be transmitted digitally from Town Hall to the head end, possibly with a switchover at the high school. This would be using the I-net cables we are asking for in our renewal proposal. Peggy is to show Mike the equipment list for his comments.

Jeff showed us the latest revision of the letter that he and Peter Epstein had been working on.

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A few changes were made.

I have added Mike Morrissey onto the distribution of this set of minutes as a non-standard event. I, as usual, ask that all participants send comments and corrections on the minutes prior to their being posted on the Committee website. His e-mail is shown above.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Greenstein