

# Town of Kingston, Massachusetts

## Cable Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2007

Room 201

**Present:**

**Committee Members:** Chairman Bill Arrowsmith, Secretary Ed Bielecki, Bob Pinato, Tom Bolus

**Excused:** Stan Antoniotti

**Guests:** Nancy Richard, Executive Director of PAC-TV and John Perry

The meeting began at 6:05 PM.

The minutes of the January 17, 2007 meeting were read. Corrections were made.

A motion "to accept the minutes with corrections" was made by Tom Bolus and seconded by Bob Pinato. The motion was accepted unanimously.

There was a discussion of Old Business.

Both Bill and Ed discussed contact with Shelley Loring of the Town Clerk's Office regarding having a cable survey on the Town's website. It can be done and within ten days. More discussion followed later.  
*Bill will follow-up with Shelley regarding this*

Ed had not contacted the Superintendent of Schools yet. Bill mentioned asking about the live drop to the schools, if any film, radio or tv classes are held, is there a studio and checking on availability of speaking with Ken Brown, who has worked on some technical things for the schools in the past. *Bill offered to follow-up on this.*

Bill continued with more information on the surveys and that Kevin Donovan let him know there is no money for the cable advisory committee to use to conduct a cable survey with the citizens. There was a discussion with everyone regarding how we might be able to perform a survey. First by using the webpage and second through a local college or university (where money would be needed to do so). Discussion continued around the subscriber fees collected and given to Kingston, (i.e. the Cable Funds) over the years. How is it used? Town Counsel? Are there funds that can be made available through the selectmen? *Bob offered to check into this with Town employees re: the Cable money and how it is budgeted.*

Bill stated he has reviewed the towns of Lincoln and Plymouth cable surveys and presented a series of questions and ideas to the Committee. The material was well received. *Bill will send us his survey questions and send along other town's surveys.*

Nancy Richard mentioned cable service should be improving over the next few months from Comcast. When Comcast took over the system, there have been lots of equipment and line upgrading needed due to the poor shape the system was in due to the lack of money put back into the local system by Adelphia the previous company.

Bob mentioned it may help the Committee to contact the previous Cable Committee Chair Peter Vacchino. *Bill offered to contact him.*

We then discussed New Business

Bill suggested the Committee meet every Tuesday at 6PM. Until we can get the new agreement resolved. All agreed. *Ed will contact the Town Clerk for meetings over the next four weeks. (Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 13, Feb 20.)*

There was a discussion between the Committee and Nancy Richard on finding the information we need so we can work on the agreement and offer our recommendations to the citizens and then to the selectmen and Bill Hewig to negotiate with Comcast.

Some considerations are

- has the cable company provided population density build out (such as 20 houses per mile).
- Is there compliance. Check customer call records (from last 3 or 4 quarters).
- Get a map of where the cable has been built out.

Bill suggested we have a survey done by next Tuesday.

Nancy offered to come to future meetings. Everyone thanked her for her attendance and information sharing.

The Committee agrees we need to be prepared and have a public hearing. What the town wants; what will the cable co. do.

There is no I/Net (data transfer ability in Kingston.

*Bill is going to check on Bridgewater State through Stan and Curry College through his contacts re: survey*

*Ed will get the minutes and agenda to Committee members and set up the meetings.*

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM by Tom. Seconded by Bob and passed unanimously.