

Deerfield Cable Comm. Minutes Jan. 3, 2008

Members present; Joe Serio, Chairman; Dave Lawrence, member; Richard Mailhot, Sr., member / scribe

The chairman indicated that he would like the meeting to be a rather informal discussion because of the low member turnout which was thought to be attributable to the severe cold temperatures.

Chairman Serio passed out loose leaf notebooks containing historical information on the current cable system a. Absent members will receive their copies at the next meeting.

The Chairman provided Information on the current state of the cable industry. He went on to describe what he sees as the Comm's function, it being, to review and boil down the various cable concerns and desires, as they become apparent through the Comm's efforts, and finally to present a comprehensive report and recommendation, for use and reference, by the Board of Selectmen, in future contract negotiations. It is hoped this will create a cable system for Deerfield that is more representative of the Communities needs and desires.

Chairman Serio indicated that the Cable Comm. had the use of a 1/2 page informational advertisement in the Deerfield Communicator newspaper for the next several months, prepaid.

Ideas as to how and what type of information should be included in the Communicator were discussed as follows;

- Purpose for the formation of the Comm. being formed'
- Ways in which to establish an information exchange between the system users and Metrocast directly.
- Potential of seeking input on different topics each month over the next several such as;
  1. Programming packaging desires,
  2. System advertising becoming more localized,
  3. Weather that is related closer geographically to Deerfield than to the Lakes region,
  4. Package lineups and their pricing,
  5. Ways in which the Comm. can assist Metrocast in improving their service.
  6. Complaints and concerns of system users.

A theme for the article is proposed to be "Your opinion of our Cable System only counts if you share it".

Further discussion was held on the current system capabilities, likely hood of the system keeping current with technology changes, and changes in the industry in general which will likely have sweeping effects on the cable industry such as;

- Al a carte channel purchasing at each addressable converter.
- Requirements to allow competing cable suppliers to lease bandwidth on Metrocast's lines.
- The availability of cable programming through internet providers.
- The availability of specialty programming (movies and such) through the internet.
- Movement away from land line telephone service into cellular home phone service.
- Ownership changes currently proposed in the telephone industry that may well spur availability of cable programming changes, (Fairpoint's proposed purchase of Verizon's landlines).

It was determined that the Comm. needs direct information as to exactly what type of services the Town and School desire from Metrocast, and whether they are available currently, or need to be negotiated items in future contracts.

The members present agreed that monthly meetings were needed, at least until the Comm. stabilizes, with the next meeting scheduled for Feb. 21, 2008 @ the George B. White Building in the Selectboard's meeting room, 2nd floor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard J. Mailhot, Sr.