

Deerfield Cable Comm. Minutes Feb 21, 2008

Members present; Joe Serio, Chairman; Debbie Boisvert, member, Harriet Cady, member, & Richard Mailhot, Sr., member / scribe

Chairman Serio passed out loose leaf notebooks containing historical information on the current cable system to members that were not available for the January meeting.

Chairman Serio indicated that in a passing discussion with a Metrocast employee that Comcast cablevision may well be looking at Metrocast for purchase. How that could possibly take place and what benefits it could have for Deerfield were discussed.

A discussion ensued as to whether or not Deerfield, presumably through the Selectboard, contact should be made to Comcast to indicate Deerfield's interest in their potential purchase of Metrocast's town wide system.

Chairman Serio passed out copies of the contacts made to the Cable telephone and website to date. He gave a presentation of the type of contact he is receiving and the discussions he has had with the individuals in general. He will continue to provide updates on the information as it continues to come in.

Future questions for the survey were reformulated to better reflect the type of information the Committee is trying to garner. A copy of the reformulated questions is attached to this e-mail. It is hoped that the survey can be sent home with school children. It was also decided that the Committee would seek permission from the Town Meeting Moderator to set up a table at the Polling place in order to provide better access to residents regarding the cable survey. We are in hopes to have several hundred residents take the time to share their thoughts on the current system and service.

Discussion continued on the current system's capabilities

- Al a carte channel purchasing at each addressable converter.
- Requirements to allow competing cable suppliers to lease bandwidth on Metrocast's lines.
- 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).

Discussion ensued as to what equipment exists, how new equipment proposals for the current Selectboard's meeting room will be accomplished. Chairman Serio has contacted a recording professional to do a take off of the room to assist in the design of the video and audio recording equipment.

Additional discussion ensued about the "feedback line" to Metrocast in Belmont and how it would be designed to function. It was reported that the Town is "trading" some negotiated service for what is perceived to be a needed service in wiring the Selectboard's meeting room. Mrs. Boisvert indicated that the feedback line would allow a much greater level of school participation in getting school functions shown on the local channel as the current system requires recordings to be physically hand carried to Belmont for submission.

Deb Boisvert indicated that there is approximately 3 weeks until the next issue of the Communicator is to be printed should any member have information the committee seeks included in that issue.

The meeting concluded shortly after 8:30 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2008 @ the George B. White Building in the Selectboard's meeting room, 2nd floor.

attachments - reformulated survey questions

Respectfully submitted,
Richard J. Mailhot, Sr.