

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
CABLE COMMITTEE  
May 15, 2012  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Deb Boisvert, Harriet Cady, David Sakowich, Kate Alexander

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The board unanimously approved the minutes as written for the meeting of April 2, 2012.

**Old Business**

Meeting with Selectmen: Kate Alexander was appointed by selectmen. Chairperson Boisvert and Mrs. Cady attended the selectmen's meeting and were authorized to negotiate the contract to present to selectmen. Selectmen would like the committee to look into the implementation of the current contract and issues of broadband in the community.

Information from Metrocast: The town receives a 3% franchise fee and in 2011 received a payment of \$27,740.15 from Metrocast. Metrocast informed the committee that Moira Campbell, Regional Manager for New Hampshire and Maine will be the company contact for the committee. Metrocast also informed the committee that they provided a direct upload line to the town offices when asked about furnishing equipment to the town.

Information Still Needed from Metrocast:

- How is the "income" received by the town used?
- The current Metrocast contract calls for two Access Channels and a third at the completion of the rebuild. Is this the case?
- The current Metrocast contract says the franchise shall train town officials, designees or school staff in the production of a community bulletin board at the Franchisee cost- was this training provided?
- Current map of lines

**Regular Business**

The committee discussed the broadband survey conducted by the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program. The organization surveyed residents in various towns and conducted speed tests to determine a person's broadband upload and download speed. Deerfield ranked high among the responses to the survey. The committee also discussed whether there are providers other than Metrocast who could supply broadband service to the town.

Committee members discussed coming up with a survey to determine how residents feel about Metrocast cable, broadband and phone services. Mr. Sakowich agreed to come up with a draft survey to present at the next meeting. Members discussed creating both an online survey and a paper survey that could appear in the Communicator and be dropped off at a location, perhaps the town offices or the survey could be mailed to the town. Mrs. Cady suggested asking Metrocast if they would be willing to include a survey in bills that are mailed to customers in town. Members discussed providing a link to an online survey on the town website, The Forum and The Communicator. Members also talked about providing the Forum and the Communicator with the cable committee's email address for anyone who wants to provide immediate feedback about Metrocast services.

The committee discussed collecting cable contracts from various towns to compare with the Deerfield's current Metrocast contract. Chairperson Boisvert said that Epsom is finalizing a contract with Metrocast and will check and see what changes or additions have been made to the new contract compared to their current contract.

Committee members discussed the length of the current Metrocast contract which is 13 years. Members would like to see if it's possible to shorten the length of the future contract and to see if any other towns have successfully negotiated a shorter contract.

Committee members discussed seeking information about possible revenue from utility pole usage.

Committee members discussed beginning to contact other cable television providers to see if there is any interest in providing service to Deerfield. Mrs. Cady offered to reach out to other providers.

**Meeting Adjourned**

7:12 p.m.

**Next Meeting: June 19, 2012 at 6 p.m.  
George B. White Building**

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by David Sakowich