

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
CABLE COMMITTEE  
October 9, 2012  
MINUTES**

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee unanimously approved the minutes as written for the meeting of September 18, 2012

**Old Business**

-Cable Survey Update: The committee has received 76 online surveys providing feedback on cable television service provided by MetroCast. 6 paper surveys made available at the town library were completed. 10 paper surveys made available at the George B. White Building were completed.

-Comcast Update: Mr. Sakowich received a correspondence from Bryan Christiansen, Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs for Comcast, Greater Boston Region. Mr. Christiansen said that Comcast declined the committee's invitation to possibly provide cable television service to Deerfield residents. Mr. Christiansen said that Comcast is focused on investing in, and serving the communities they currently provide service to. Mrs. Cady also spoke with a Comcast representative in Philadelphia who also indicated that it was unlikely that Comcast would purchase the MetroCast infrastructure although Comcast was interested in knowing the cost.

-Selectmen Meeting Room Public Access Equipment: At the last meeting the committee discussed exploring the possible purchase of microphone stands for Selectmen meetings to improve audio quality. Amazon.com sells microphone stands costing \$15 to \$19-dollars.

-Franchise Renewal Public Hearing- The town administrator recommended the dates of November 19<sup>th</sup> or December 3<sup>rd</sup> for selectmen to hold the franchise renewal public hearing.

**Motion:** Mr. Sakowich motioned to recommend that selectmen hold the meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Seconded:** Ms. Alexander seconded the Motion. **Vote:** Unanimous.

Chairperson Boisvert will contact MetroCast to ask that a representative attend the public hearing.

-Other MetroCast Towns: Ms. Alexander and Mr. Sakowich contacted the other communities served by MetroCast to see where they are in the franchise renewal process. Ms. Alexander said that a dozen communities have formed a consortium and have hired an attorney to negotiate their new contract with MetroCast. The communities are about to begin negotiations with MetroCast in the next month. The Deerfield Cable Committee discussed possibly joining the consortium. The cost to be represented by the attorney is unknown but could be \$1,500 to \$2,500. The Deerfield Cable Committee would need to submit a request for participation and the consortium would decide if Deerfield could join. Since the consortium is about to begin negotiations, Deerfield Cable Committee members discussed whether it would be too late in the process to have the committee's concerns heard and represented. The committee also discussed whether Deerfield Selectmen would approve funds for an attorney to negotiate a contract with MetroCast. The consortium is meeting in early November and Deerfield would then learn if there is interest from member communities in allowing Deerfield to join the consortium. The City of Laconia and the towns of Wolfeboro, New Hampton, Tilton and Sanbornton provided information about their status of negotiations with MetroCast.

-SNHPC Broadband Update: Chairperson Boisvert attended the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission's hearing on Broadband Service in the state. It was learned that Deerfield has the slowest connectivity speed. Other communities who have had slow internet speeds have been awarded federal grants to expand broadband service. It was also learned that Fairpoint after completing the purchase of Verizon was ordered by the Public Utilities Commission to offer DSL service to underserved areas. In order to possibly have DSL provided to Deerfield by Fairpoint, the company needs the addresses of homes that are not able to receive broadband service. **Motion:** Mrs. Cady motion to have Chairperson Boisvert write an article for the town newsletter explaining that the committee learned through its normal work of negotiating a new cable television contract that internet service (DSL) may be able to be provided by Fairpoint to homes currently not available to receive internet in any form in Deerfield. In order to explore the possibility, the committee needs the names and addresses of the homeowners to provide to Fairpoint. **Seconded:** Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. **Vote:** Unanimous.

### **New Business**

-Audit Questions: Mr. Sakowich developed a list of audit questions to provide to MetroCast as part of the franchise renewal agreement. The committee will review the questions and discuss at the next meeting.

-Cable Subscriber Map: The town does not have a map, the committee discussed asking MetroCast to supply a cable map of the town.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

6:55p.m

**Next Meeting: November 20th at 6 p.m.  
George B. White Building**

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by David Sakowich