

## Wellfleet Cable Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Minutes of Meeting on September 26, 2005 at 7:00 PM, Wellfleet Library

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2005

TOWN CLERK

**Attendees:** Tom Cole, Betsy Williams, Susan Messina, Steven Durkee (guest)

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. Tom Cole offered to be chairperson for tonight.

Minutes of August 20, 2005 meeting were accepted with minor changes and are attached as a partial summary of local cable issues. The term "filming" should be "videotaping".

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Member Recruitment

WCAC currently has 3 members and is looking for 2 more people to complete the committee.

Steven Durkee was welcomed as a guest who may be interested in learning about the Town's cable issues and possibly joining this committee. Steve is a former member of the Wellfleet Housing Authority. *(Note: Steve later declined the invitation to join.)*

Betsy will contact John O'Hara, who is in the software business and may be interested in this committee.

#### Overview for Guest

The Committee spent most of the meeting summarizing the history and objectives concerning the complexities of PEG, channels 17 and 18, and studio production and broadcasting for our Town.

#### Friends of Lower Cape Community Media (FLCCM) September Meeting

Comcast has indicated a desire to open negotiations with each town concerning the PEG section of the contracts. Each town's advisory committee is discussing what is needed and how these possible changes will affect local programming for their town. It is felt that leverage can be gained if all of the outer Cape towns form a consortium to share information. One of the objectives of FLCCM is to facilitate communications and forward information among the towns.

Betsy and Tom attended the September meeting of FLCCM which this month included a member of the Truro cable advisory committee, Buddy Perkel and Betsy also spoke to Guy Strauss of Truro.

It has been noted that feedback from Eastham has been lacking regarding their upcoming contract in June 2006.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Channel 18 for Wellfleet**

Discussion has begun on what steps would be taken to start negotiations with Comcast regarding a channel 18 for Wellfleet.

We will contact the head of the cable TV authority in Boston for a list of regulations. Betsy has offered to look into this.

Note: A clean working copy of Rika Welch's DVD on the history of PEG is needed for WCAC files (current one is scratched and unreadable). Larry Greeley of Brewster may be able to provide another copy, or Tom may be able to make copies for each member.

### **Upcoming Legislation**

Senate Bill 1349 and House Bill H.R. 3146 are in progress seeking to change the requirements for funding local public access television across the United States. Information is being circulated which indicates that this legislation could be detrimental to local programming and might take away control from local governments, and perhaps affect funding of public access. Essentially, this legislation is interpreted to "eliminate a requirement for telecommunications companies to pay franchise fees to local municipalities. These fees are required as compensation to the community for use of the public right of way through which the companies route cables and utilities."

*Article dated September 30, 2005 from [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org)*

Betsy will distribute copies of this article to the rest of the committee and will mail it to other people of interest.

### **Yarmouth Media Studio**

Tom recently went to Yarmouth to see their production studio, which is considered to be a good model. He reported that the Yarmouth group is well organized and experienced, and they would be interested in offering their expertise and management of our production and broadcasting needs, if the Orleans studio were to close.

A field trip to the Yarmouth studio will be planned in the near future.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.**

**Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 20 at 2:00 PM, Wellfleet Library.**

**Respectfully submitted by Susan Messina, Acting Secretary WCAC**