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## Wellfleet Cable Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Minutes of Meeting on October 20, 2005 at 2:00 PM, Wellfleet Library

**Attendees:** Tom Cole, Betsy Williams, Susan Messina, John O'Hara (guest)

**Chairperson:** Tom offered to serve today, and called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

**Meeting Format:** The Committee discussed how to organize and conduct our meetings. For now, we will have voluntary rotating chairpersons, and will use an informal conversational format. Regarding motions, a majority will carry a vote, however we will strive for full consensus.

**Minutes** of the September 26 meeting were read and accepted with two corrections.

### Guests and Membership

John O'Hara was welcomed as a guest who may be interested in joining this committee. John is in the software industry, and his wife is the new Wellfleet Children's Librarian. An overview of public access issues was presented for John's benefit.

To become a member of the committee, interested persons may apply at Town Hall.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Agenda Items

The Committee determined that we should 1) discuss pertinent upcoming federal legislation, and 2) research the pros & cons and costs of initiating a Channel 18 for Wellfleet.

#### Upcoming Federal Legislation

Senate and House bills, seeking to change the franchise regulations of the phone and cable utilities, are still under consideration. This legislation would remove franchising from the state and local level, and likely negate public access entirely.

An article has been brought to our attention, written by the Alliance for Community Media, regarding the potentially detrimental ramifications of this legislation.

*Democracy Now 9/30/05 -- [www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=05/05/30/1411227](http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=05/05/30/1411227) (on file)*

This legislation issue should also be brought up and discussed at a future Friends of Lower Cape Community Media (FLCCM) meeting.

## **Wellfleet Channel (18)**

In addition to the regional Channel 17, the Wellfleet contract has a provision for the establishment of a Town Channel on cable channel 18. The committee discussed a number of financial and technical issues, and agreed to pursue more information about them.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Eastham CAC**

Betsy recently spoke with Peter Whitlock, Selectman liaison to Eastham's Cable Advisory Committee, with regard to negotiation updates on the regional Channel 17 and the Orleans studio which may affect the other Lower Cape towns. Janice Cormier, member of Eastham's CAC, may be able to provide further information of mutual interest. Eastham's contract deadline is June 2006.

### **Provincetown CAC**

Susan read an email dated 10/20/05 from Catherine Russo of the Provincetown CAC. Catherine stated that "it has been really difficult for us at PTV to get reasonable time slots for shows that need to be shown in a timely manner. This is affecting our credibility at a time when our audience is growing and folks are turning to Channel 17 for info." Catherine is proposing to invite CAC representatives from the six towns to hear advice from programming manager, James Paul Ludwig.

Copies of Rika Welch's public access presentations are requested for our files.

WCAC will continue to meet regularly and keep in contact with other Lower Cape CAC.

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.**

**Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 17 at 2:00 PM, Wellfleet Library.**

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