

Belmont Cable Access Committee
Minutes 10/15/2002
7:30 PM BCTV Channel 8 Studio

Present

Committee: John Verrilli (chair), Todd Bloniarz (vice-chair), Larry Kutner; Paulette Trout

AT&T Broadband: Cori Morris, Abiodun Shobowale

School Liaison: Lee McCanne

Call to Order: The meeting was officially called to order at 7:41. John distributed a contact list.

Minutes: Minutes from 9/24 were received and accepted, with a correction.

New Member: John introduced Larry Kutner, whose expertise in technical matters and running non-profit organizations is most welcome.

Issues from Community: No complaints or concerns.

Report on Studio Operations

- **Sound quality:** There is general satisfaction with the sound quality produced at the broadcast of the Selectmen's meetings. The School Committee meetings' sound quality is still a concern. Lee McCann reported that part of the problem was the ventilation system. Larry wanted to check the output of the mixer and suggested new cables, with transformers, to maintain balanced sound. John will contact the Town Manager to explore the school board using the Selectman's room for their meetings.

- **Graphics generator:** The character/graphics generator (Scala) seems to have a problem with resizing graphics. On the positive side, the new scan converter helps with the clarity of the image. Cori reported that the manufacturer can provide technical assistance

- **Maintenance:** Larry brought up the idea of a maintenance schedule and the help of an outside consulting engineer. We agreed this idea merited further discussion.

- **New kids programs:** Abby described a spin-off from the Kid's Summer Camp, which seems to be very successful. Kids are producing shows themselves, such as "Belmont Kids News" and "Guess What?" The Children's TV Club meets every Tuesday at the studio from 5-7 pm. Mark leads a Chenery group from 3-4 pm.

- **Front door key:** The staff needs a second key for the front door because the two managers have different schedules. Lee McCanne said he would help with this matter.

Public Meeting Coverage: The Kendall/VW property zoning issue is particularly important and Planning Board meetings should be covered by the station if resources are available.

Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Cable Access Corporation: John received a letter from the Selectmen's office, informing him of the formation of an ad hoc committee to study the establishment of a cable access corporation to run the local cable station. The

committee will be made up of members of the Cable Advisory Committee, the School Department, and others. John will supply his name along with Todd, Larry, and Maryann Scali. Cori mentioned an active web site for community television: www.alliancecm.org, the site for the Alliance for Community Media.

Public Information and Communication Committee: John received another letter from the Selectmen's Office, concerning a planning group to address Public Information and Communications. The group will be facilitated by the Vision Implementation Committee. The letter said he would be contacted "in the near future."

The establishment of these committees prompted a discussion of the purpose of the public access station. We discussed two major purposes: dissemination of information to the public and opportunities for local residents to use equipment to produce their own shows. This discussion will continue.

Finances and Capital Equipment: Cori distributed copies of the latest budget. There is at least \$4,747.90 remaining for capital expenses, which can be rolled over until next year, according to Cori. John will contact Sue Timberlake concerning the status of town-controlled money that might be available. One major expense is a digital non-linear editing system and digital camcorders. We made no decisions, but want to make purchases as part of a long-range plan. Good quality signals are essential.

Political guidelines: Discussion was postponed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Next meeting: November 19, 2002 in the studio.

Respectfully submitted,
John Verrilli