

**Belmont Cable Access Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of September 16, 2003**

Attendance: John Verrilli (chairman), Maryann Scali, Pam Curtis, Mark Ventola, Lee McCanne

The meeting was called to order by Chair, John Verrilli at 7:45 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2003 were reviewed and accepted as written.

CAC Membership: Two new members have joined the CAC. They are Deborah Danzig and Fred Skoler. The committee now stands at six members. It could go to seven.

Issues from the community: Quality of Channel 8 broadcasts is uneven. The most recent broadcast of the taped meeting of the Board of Selectman was reported to be poor in quality, but the bulletin board is fine. The live broadcast of last Tuesday's School Committee meeting was poor, but the taped broadcast was fine. Mark reported that these problems may be a result of the rebuilding going on, and that a technician was coming out to check things out.

Report on Studio Operations: Mark reported that there is one new show on channel 8 - an exercise program by Denise Harrington. The schedule is supposed to be run in the Citizen-Herald. There aren't very many shows currently running. Mark was asked about a channel 8 website. There are no plans for one at present, but he may look into getting a student to work on one for community service.

Lee was asked whether channel 9 was being operated by BHS. He replied that there is nothing running on Channel 9 at present.

Public Meetings Coverage: Two public meetings currently scheduled to be covered by Channel 8 are the Board of Selectman's public hearing on the O'Neill property at 7:30 p.m. on October 14 and the special Town meeting at 7:30 on November 17.

Equipment Order and future purchases: John reported that he still did not know the status of the CAC's equipment order from this past August. Specifically, he did not know whether the order had been approved as submitted to Comcast or whether Comcast had actually ordered any of the requested equipment. Mark was going to check on this.

Direct Payment from Comcast: Lee reported that the school system has received a direct payment of 5000.00 from Comcast.

Report on CAC/CTAC Joint Committee: This committee is now known as the Media Center Task Force (MCTF). The CAC discussed various possible sites for a future Channel 8, since there is a good chance that Belmont High School will want to take the current studio back as classroom space. The old Electric Light Dept. building is a leading contender. Lee expressed the hope that Channel 8 could have closer ties with BHS, and argued for keeping at least a limited studio operating there. BHS might agree to this if media studies became part of the high school curriculum.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 21

The meeting was adjourned by John Verilli at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Pam Curtis

Acting Secretary for September 16, 2003