

**CHESHIRE, MERIDEN, SOUTHTON CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2015
COX COMMUNICATIONS IN CHESHIRE**

Members Present: Rosalie Fountain, Henry Chase , Mike Solimine, Adam Grippo, Andy Jay, Karen Roesler, Susan Moore Beth Hosmer

Members Absent: Karen Kritz and Dave Cooley

Cox Cable: None

Others Present: Kathy Doherty, Recording Secretary

Chairman Rosalie Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. and read the charge of the Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Kathy Doherty

Kathy noted that the November meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. We did not have a quorum in the previous two meetings either. At the September 17th meeting we had four people in attendance and the October 15th meeting we had three members in attendance. The Council members in attendance did talk about issues at those two meetings but they were unable to make any motions.

Kathy called the roll and we did have a quorum in attendance. Kathy noted that Barbara Haeffner has been replaced by Susan Moore and we now have a new library representative, Karen Roesler.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE SOLIMINE

Mike stated that the only thing he has paid since September is the Post Office Box so the new balance is \$2,001.34. We did receive the stipend for 2014 in September. Mike will send a bill to Peter for 2015.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's report.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Andy Jay, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Larry DePaolo from Southington was in attendance at the meeting. He was very unhappy about the new mini digital boxes that he is being forced to use. He said that he can no longer record off of his DVR's and VCR's with these new boxes and he wanted to know why they were not told this. He has over \$1,000.00 worth of equipment that is going to be useless when he hooks up the new boxes. He has two T.V.'s that have picture in picture and Cox does not support that so that service even though their remotes say picture in picture on them. He is now losing that service as well.

He has been to Cox and got the boxes, brought them home and tried them and then brought them back. He will go back and get them at the last minute when he absolutely has to get them. He just spent \$150 in October getting his DVR repaired and if he had known this was coming, he would not have spent the money. He has hard drives in his DVR's and he can tape 130 hours of T.V. on each set. They are now useless to him.

He was adamant that the public should have been notified. He had contacted Karen Kritz about this issue about a month ago and she was going to look into it but he has not heard back from her.

Henry Chase stated that he had also gotten the mini box and he thinks there is a way that you can do it but going in and out of the box through the analog terminals. He did say that it is restricted and you would not be able to watch different channels.

Mr. DePaolo stated that the mini box has to be on channel 3 or 4 to get it to work so he does not know how you can record off of another channel. He does not think it will work. If he wants to be able to record shows now it will cost him \$8.00 for the box and \$12.00 for the DVR. He would still not be able to copy things.

Rosalie stated that she would be in touch with Peter tomorrow and she was sure that he would be in touch with him. Rosalie also gave him her phone number in case he did not get a response or was not satisfied with the response he received.

COMMUNICATIONS BY MAIL

Rosalie had received a payment from someone living in New Haven, which she did not understand, but she gave the payment to Dave at the studio tonight.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ROSALIE FOUNTAIN

We had no quorum for the past three meetings. We have two new members and hopefully we will be able to hold meetings at least once every two months. Rosalie welcomed Susan and Karen to the Council.

Rosalie had to have a serviceman come to her house and he replaced all of the wiring both inside and outside. She kept getting HD is not available. Now when she first turns on the TV it says that but if she goes up or down on the stations and then back up, then it is fine for the rest of the night.

Andy Jay stated that it was an unadvertised feature.

Rosalie also has also had problem with bad static on her phones, not on her end but on the other end that her callers hear. It turns out that it was the equipment and once that was replaced she quit having the problem and there was no charge for that. This was because the modem was outdated.

Rosalie had a letter from the DPUC advising the Council of the transition of Cox's video services in Connecticut to all digital network. On or about February 20th Cox will no longer be delivering analog versions of programming and customers will need to acquire digital equipment from Cox for each television in order to continue to receive the channels.

The channels impacted include ABC Family, AMC, FX, History, HSN, and QVC. Options include a "cable card" for \$1.99 per month, a mini-box at \$1.99 per month or an advanced TV receiver for \$8.50 per month. Promotional pricing for various equipment options will also be available. This will result in a better TV viewing experience and future product enhancements.

Mr. DePaolo stated that he had received a letter saying that depending on the level of service you have then you can receive up to two boxes for free for one year.

(NOTE: I called Cox about this and if you only have basic cable with them then you can get two for free, if you have advanced TV with them, you can only get one for free. Make sense to you? We pay more, but get less.)

If you are paying for sports programs, when you put the mini-box on you don't get the higher tier channels. You only get basic on the mini-box.

Henry stated that the mini-box does not show the widescreen channels, the 16:9 ratio. He can go in directly through the old analog feed and can pick up a certain amount of digital channels without a box. On a digital set, you can do a digital search to search out all the channels and there is a whole flock of channels from the analog lineup that you can pick up in the digital tier and you don't need a box. But they do not advertise that.

Rosalie has problems when she tapes a program she loses the ending. This is because the networks are staggering the start and stop time. You need to add additional time to the start and stop time. They are not starting their programs right on the hour.

Andy stated that he knows that Council had settled on the third Wednesday of the month but that is a permanent conflict with him with another meeting he has at his church. He will just have to come to this meeting sometimes and not others. If it was any other Wednesday, he would not have a problem, his church meeting is just the third Wednesday.

Beth noted that in the month of March she teaches an adult ed class and she will probably be late to the meeting.

COX COMMUNICATIONS – PETER TALBOT

Not in attendance. Peter only has to attend two meetings a year and will probably be at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Henry asked if Cox would consider selling you independent channels that you really want.

Andy stated that Cox will not do that as nobody wants to negotiate a contract with someone who does that. ESPN is probably the only one who would do that and they negotiate ALL the ESPN channels and if you wanted only one ESPN channel, you would have to pay for them all.

Henry stated that part of the problem is people are able to drop cable and get their programs off the internet now and he has been doing that to.

Kathy stated that a friend told her about a website where you can get the network channels and all new movies directly on your computer and there is no subscription fee to it.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. at the Cox Studio in Cheshire.

REMINDER

Rosalie has requested that anyone who is unable to attend the meetings, that they please contact either Kathy or herself.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Doherty

Kathy Doherty
Recording Secretary