

**CHESHIRE, MERIDEN, SOUTHLINGTON CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2015
WATCH FACTORY RESTAURANT IN CHESHIRE**

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

Members Absent: Karen Kritz, Dave Cooley, Mike Solimine, and Andy Jay,

Cox Cable: Peter Talbot

Others Present: Kathy Doherty, Recording Secretary

Chairman Rosalie Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:24 P.M. and read the charge of the Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Kathy Doherty

Kathy called the roll and there was not a quorum in attendance until Beth arrives. Once we have a quorum we will need to vote on the minutes from the March 18, 2015 and the minutes from the September and October 2014 meeting minutes as well. The November 2014 meeting was cancelled.

Kathy stated that the Council used to have their annual meeting in June but because of school and other conflicting issues the annual meeting was changed to May. In order to retain meeting five times per year, the meeting dates were changed to be September, October, November, January, March and May. We had voted to approve the January 2015 meeting minutes at the March 2015 meeting.

The approval of the minutes will be deferred until we have a quorum.

Beth arrived.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the September 17, 2014, October 15, 2014, and March 28, 2015 meetings.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Henry Chase, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present. It was noted that there was a typo in the March minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE SOLIMINE

Mike was not in attendance, but he did give his report to Rosalie. The only check written was for secretarial expenses on 3/26. The current balance is \$1,550.45. We have not yet received the 2015 stipend.

Peter asked that the treasurer submit an invoice so that it can be paid.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's report.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Henry Chase, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMUNICATIONS BY MAIL

None. There were no bill payments. There were, however, three pieces of mail that did not belong to us.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ROSALIE FOUNTAIN

Rosalie asked Peter if Mr. DePaolo's issue had been resolved regarding the mini digital boxes. Peter stated that they have spoken with him regarding the issues. He was not sure whether he was completely pleased but at least he understands.

Rosalie stated that she is all digital now but that every time she calls Cox she gets the message that she has not responded to them about getting a mini box. She told Cox a long time ago that she has four boxes and does not need the mini box but she continues to get the message.

Henry stated that the channels on the mini box are limited and he asked Peter if there is any plan in the future to make them adaptable.

Peter stated that the mini box actually carries more channels than the old direct connection. There are 30 – 40 additional channels that were not available at the same level of service by just connecting into the wall. Peter felt that the focus would be on the addition of HD channels. If those HD channels correspond with lower tier channels then it would be a possibility.

Henry stated that the box is basically a receiver and you can receive all kinds of frequencies that are being transmitted. He would like to know if there is the potential to reprogram it to have ala carte channels.

Peter explained that there is a capacity issue but he is not sure what that capacity is for those boxes. They are intended to only carry a limited amount of channels. That is why the guide is not a full scale guide, everything is trimmed down.

Peter believes that as you get into more additional channels then it would be necessary to go into the higher capacity boxes.

Rosalie stated that she has received a few calls regarding the mini digital boxes. Although the box is free for the first year, after that it is \$1.99 charge for each additional box. You cannot watch any TV without paying and they are not happy.

Peter stated that Cox is the last video provider in the State that offered the ability to have 20 sets when you were only paying for one set. Frontier, Dish, Direct, Comcast, Cablevision – no matter where else you live in the State of Connecticut or the competitive providers within this Franchise area, all require a cable box on every single set and you pay for the box on every single set. Cox is the last ones to fall.

Rosalie once again brought up her favorite issue. Peter had said previously that once we went digital there would be more bandwidth available. Rosalie asked if we are ever going to get network channels other than the stupid three channels we have now. We are the only ones that don't have them and for what we pay we should be able to watch what we want.

Peter said that would be very unlikely. Peter stated that a lot of the problem is laws regarding duplication of carriage.

Henry stated that when you get signals off of a regular antenna without a cable hookup you can get 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 and 3-4. One of the channels, 3-4, replicates what is on 3-1. The point is if you are going to be having something on 3-1 that is interrupted, why can't you get the official program on 3-4 without the interruptions.

Peter stated that one of them is an HD feed and that is why it is replicated.

Henry felt that it seemed logical to him that a channel has four channels and some are duplicated, why can't you put the network back on one of the sub channels?

Rosalie pointed out that channel 8 and MyTV9 are the same programming. For what we pay, we should get New York channels.

Peter stated that Rosalie is asking for uninterrupted network runs. Maybe that would be an interesting way to pursue it because he keeps butting up against a brick wall when he asks about New York imports because that is a whole different ballgame. It is not that you want to see the New York news; it is because the network programming is bumped off because of local programming. Peter felt that this would be a good way to pursue this problem.

Rosalie and Henry both agreed that channel 8 overdoes their coverage of weather snowstorms and other events. It is the same thing over and over. They also have the endless scrolling at the bottom for school closings, even as late as 9:00 P.M. for closings and delays for that day.

Peter stated that would be the local network who should be removing those scrolls beyond the close of school.

Rosalie also complained about the networks all having their logos across the screen which cuts out part of the picture.

Peter says you can blame CNN for that. If they could have a bottom scroll, side scrolls, top scrolls, who needs a picture?

Peter stated that he will pursue the issue with the Company about the uninterrupted programs and see how quickly he can crash the wall on that one.

Kathy stated that she is having a lot of freezing issues on the DVR recorded programming. It is starting to become the norm rather than the exception now. Rosalie has also been experiencing this problem as well. On one program she was watching it actually lost part of the dialogue. She went to On Demand and was able to hear the missing part which happened to be a very important part of the story line.

Peter stated that he has never had freezing on recorded programs but he has found that the audio will start to garble at times. It will be choppy. If you hit the back arrow, it will clear it up.

Peter asked if those issues had cleared up when he sent Cox employees to both Rosalie and Kathy's homes to check out the problems. They had cleared up, but now they are back and worse than they were before.

Rosalie noted that she is also now receiving the notes saying channel not available but if you scroll down and then back up the channel is now available. Kathy is getting the same issues again as well.

Kathy stated that the search feature function does not work properly as well. Kathy also discovered that the DVR went for more than a week without recording her shows. When she called in, she was told that if you don't unplug your box at least once a month it happens. This was told to her by a Cox employee who has a contour box herself. She says she has to do this once a week.

Peter suggested that she do a test for one week. Every night before you go to bed, unplug the box, wait 30 seconds, plug it back in and go to bed. If that works, then it tells him something. If it doesn't work, that tells him something too.

Kathy felt that Cox should be notifying their customers that this needs to be done to prevent them from losing their programming.

Peter noted that those boxes are computers and they are sensitive to heat. They should not be closed off.

Rosalie noted that our Meriden Library Representative, Karen Roesler, has now been officially appointed.

Henry has suggested that we have an annual meeting to see if we can get anyone to attend. We could post an ad in the papers and put it on Facebook as well. We could still use the Cox studio, we could just move into the studio room.

This is not something we would want to do in the summer, but maybe we could do it in September. Peter noted that theoretically all of our meetings are public meetings. We used to have huge attendances at our meetings but once we got the Yankees, the Red Sox and the Mets people stopped coming.

Kathy noted that she had contacted the City of Meriden Town Clerk about the minutes. She said that if she got them, she posted them, if not it was no problem.

Kathy sent her fifty pages to bring her current with all the minutes. She also put a cover letter along with the minutes stating that we do need another person on the Council to fill a long open vacancy. She never responded back.

There should be three Regular Members and a Board of Ed Representative from each Town. Meriden, as the largest Town in the Franchise, gets a library member as well. Peter thought that, based on population, Meriden may get four Regular Members. He will check into that.

We currently only have one Regular Member and one Board of Ed member in Southington. Karen Kritz has not attended a meeting for some time. If a member has three unexcused absences, we can send them a letter requesting them to resign. Kathy has sent certified letters to members in the past who were not attending along with an attached resignation letter and asking them to sign it. We may need to do this for Karen.

Kathy noted that with the by-laws as they currently read; if Beth does not attend the meeting we do not have a quorum because there has to be one member from each Town in attendance. With Karen not attending, that only leaves Beth.

It is the responsibility of the Towns to appoint members to the Council.

The next meeting would be September 16, 2015 which is the third Wednesday and we would have it at the Cox studio. Press releases would need to go out in papers in all of the Towns. If you want to put in an actual ad then you would have to pay for it. Press releases are free but it is hit or miss as to when they put them in, so we would have to start putting them in the paper in August.

Cheshire gets The Herald; The Citizen; The Record Journal; The Waterbury Republican; the New Haven Register; and the Hartford Courant.

Kathy noted that we are required to have six meetings a year and our meetings are scheduled in September, October, November, January, March and the dinner meeting schedule that?

Peter stated that we are not required to reschedule the meeting. Peter also informed the Council that Enfield has elected to meet only at the two meetings in which he attends. The State Representative from Glastonbury introduced a piece of legislation into this session which basically asked for Pura to look at the need for Advisory Councils. The bill didn't go anywhere, but that talk is out there.

COMPANY REPORT – PETER TALBOT

Peter stated that, from the Company's perspective, Connecticut was the first system in the Country for Cox to go all digital. Everyone from the corporate office and everyone who worked on this project were extremely pleased with how it went. Yes there were some bumps and some people who were not happy about going to a box at all, but from a strategic standpoint, it went extremely well as well as how it rolled out and how it was implemented.

This is now happening concurrently in Rhode Island and Cleveland and will spread Nationwide on a rolling scale from there.

The listing of all the channel changes and additions has been going to Rosalie. This is the by-product of the go all digital move.

Peter stated that another thing that the Company will do with the additional bandwidth is to do speed increases. They have rolled out in the Phoenix system a gig to residential customers. That is going to roll out across the country and is anticipated to hit the northeast at the end of 2016.

Adam stated that he read about a month ago about a gigabit project that was originated at Yale and that they were talking to Cox about it. This was about rolling out gigabit services for businesses.

Peter stated that was not part of the same program. This was held at Yale but it was undertaken by the City of New Haven. When the legislation session started in January there was a move to make Connecticut the first Gigabit State. Basically, it is the State of Connecticut trying to come up with a gig broadband network which is going to cost BILLIONS of dollars in a State that is already facing a 140 Million Dollar deficit. They want to do a State run broadband network.

The argument of Cox and the other providers through NECTA (New England Cable and Tele-communications Association) is that we already have it. We can offer gig speeds to businesses now and Cox is the first one that has announced that it will get down to the residential level according to our roll out plan.

The symposium that was held in New Haven at Yale is actually the State Department. The problem is, there is going to have to be some taxpayer expense to this network. Why does the State want to get into a broadband network?

OLD BUSINESS

We will not be voting on the By-laws until September. Peter had downloaded the by-laws, worked on it and did the track changes so it highlights it all and he will send it to the Council. He kind of geared it towards what he has seen for other by-laws in Councils.

Kathy noted that Susan had brought up several good issues about the way our by-laws are written. There is nothing that actually says what constitutes a quorum. It does state what is considered a quorum for sub-committees but not the actual meeting. There also needs to be something done about the combining of offices since we combined the Treasurer and the Vice-Chairman and got rid of the Secretary position. There was also something about disseminating information which we have no control over – it was just a part of the Franchising Agreement. The biggest issue to be addressed is the defining of a quorum and the consistency of language.

Peter had answered Susan's other question about whether a meeting would have to be rescheduled if it was cancelled – no we do not.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections – Slate of Officers – Adam Grippo

Chairman – Rosalie Fountain.

Vice-Chairman / Treasurer – Mike Solimine

MOTION: To close nominations.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Susan Moore, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

The secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the slate of officers.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 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

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Beth Hosmer, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Doherty

**Kathy Doherty
Recording Secretary**