

DCAT Governance Committee
September 22, 2010
7pm Durham Police Station

Present: Dianne Thompson, Chip Neal, Craig Stevens, Todd Ziemek, Kathleen Young, Jennifer Flannery, Erika Mantz.

August minutes approved

No public concerns

Dianne will copy policy changes to Town Council for approval and Luke Vincent to update the web site.

Craig Stevens reported on town matters

- he is still trying to track down source of intermittent video problems when switching between sources (live, tape, etc).
- the quality of help from Comcast is spotty
- We have added the Energy Committee to our programming schedule. We could actually do more town programming, such as the Rental Housing Commission and Library events. Another channel would help to make room for this programming.
- Running a second or third channel would not be that much more expensive.
- Craig thinks that his budget may shrink by as much as 3% next year.
- **Dianne** will send a letter of support for Craig's budget to the Town Council.

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Kathleen Young reported on school matters

- Kathleen reported on her attendance at the New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media in August. It was informative to meet with people representing a wide variety of community cable operations both large and small. There is a lot going on out there we are not alone. Their next meeting will be in Nashua.
- Her Video 1 and 2 classes are now making video and she is trying to orchestrate coverage of sporting events by using video supplied by the parents using their own video cams. She is already training some parents to do this.
- She has also started working with the Middle School to train kids to use the library's flip cams to produce video.
- We should stay informed about the evolution of Student Digital Portfolios and what it might mean for us.

Process last night's hearing (9/22/10)

- We need to try to stay on top of current and future trends toward watching TV through your computer via internet. Where does that leave broadcast television - and DCAT? We need to remember that our constituents are the citizens of Durham not Comcast. We need to go wherever our citizens are going. If that means abandoning Comcast and going off on our own, so be it.
- We discussed "franchise fees". How much are we talking about? Maybe \$50,000 to \$100,000. Who gets that money? What can we do with it? Can we use it to

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fund a more robust website with video streaming, archive programs, and more interactive bulletin board? (replacing the broadcast version) **Jennifer** will look into internet possibilities now and future.

- We need to be prepared for these contract negotiations with specifics about cable drops, live areas, hosts for streaming, production equipment, planning for HD, maximum length of contract we will consider. **Kathleen and Craig** will continue gathering this data.

Remember Comcast has a virtual and real monopoly.

*These minutes submitted by Chip Neal 9/23/10