



**Portsmouth Cable Commission
Informational Meeting re Public Access Board of Directors
Levenson Room, Public Library
January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: John Gregg, Chairman, Nancy Beach, Brian Gregg and Kathy Pearce. Also present was Alan Brady, Communications Supervisor. Absent: Bill Southworth.

Twenty one members of the public were also in attendance.

The Chair welcomed attendees, outlined the agenda, and gave a presentation on the status of Public Access in Portsmouth and the process of developing a Board of Directors. He then opened the meeting up to questions from the audience. Commissioner Brian Gregg asked that everyone state their name, town of residence and feel free to provide comments as well as ask questions.

Nat Heard pointed out the need to publicize the opportunity for the public to provide content. Richard Katz suggested asking the public to provide input into what they would like and not like on public access television.

Frank Cook of Portsmouth referred to River Run Book Store who bring in authors each week for interviews and asked what Comcast things about this.

Nat Heard responded that River Run cannot advertise by saying come down to buy the book but asks to come down and interview. In fairness this should also be open to other book stores in the area.

David Phreaner commended the Cable Commission for their work.

Peter Sommsich stated his hope that there would be many diverse views expressed and that it will be an interesting challenge to provide programs for the entire age spectrum. He later asked about what rules govern decency in programming.

Kathleen Soldati referred to a technique of asking people what they would like to teach and what they were capable of teaching themselves i.e. virtually everyone can teach something.

George Preston challenged the new board to develop public access in a strategic sense.

John Herman pointed out that television and the old way of presenting public access would not be of interest to a younger audience.

Dan Freund said he has found that people love to see themselves on (Internet) TV.

Brad Jett referenced that good program content can be drawn from elsewhere e.g. the NH Department of Fish and Wildlife produces a program regularly.

Chris Ostrom identified the importance of finding a good program director to solicit and organize content.

Bob Carolan clarified that the prior version of “public access” in Portsmouth was really an endeavor controlled by the cable company. It was local but not public access television. He also was interested in where the studio would be located – if in the high school, there must be a separate entrance.

Donna Funteral asked about the amount of time that would be required to serve on the board.

Sara Hamilton referenced the time commitment of the founding Art-Speak board.

Joel Plagenz inquired about the start up costs and whether Comcast would be providing anything.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and appreciates your interest.

V. Adjournment