



**Portsmouth  
Cable Commission Meeting  
4:00 p.m. – April 8, 2010  
City Hall/Conference Room A**

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The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order** - The following were present:
- John Gregg, Chairman
  - Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
  - Brian Gregg, Commissioner
  - William Southworth
  - Absent: Nancy Beach

Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

- II. Approval of Minutes – February 3, 11, 18 and March 25, 2010** - The minutes of the February 3, 11, 18 and March 25, 2010 meetings were approved as presented. Brian Gregg abstained.
- III. Discussion of pending Federal Legislation Regarding Public Access: HR 3745** – Discussion of this legislation had previously been introduced by Brian Gregg who said he had no further information beyond that supplied by the Alliance for Community Media website. Chairman Gregg noted that according to GovTrack.us the bill was assigned to the House Energy and Commerce Committee last October and has received no further action. Discussion about whether to take ask the City Council to take a position on this bill resulted in an agreement to simply monitor any future developments. It was noted that the New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media has not taken a position on the bill nor asked communities to do so.
- IV. Cable Commission Charter** – Commissioner Southworth expressed interest in the Cable Commission facilitating future developments in high speed communications throughout the city as a means of ensuring the economic viability. His thought was to be proactive in working with companies who might bring new capabilities to the city. There was discussion whether this would require expanding the charter of the Commission which concluded that possibly it would not, but that it would make sense to explore a little more about what this would mean and how it might unfold before getting involved in language to change the charter. Commissioner Southworth volunteered to write a position paper on the subject which would flesh out the idea and could then be used in informal discussions with the Mayor, City Manager and the Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Southworth also volunteered to see if he could locate some industry executives to speak on this topic at the June Commission meeting.

- V. **Comcast / NBC Joint Venture** – The Chair informed the Commission that Jay Somers of Comcast had asked that the city write a letter to the FCC taking a position in favor of the proposed Comcast / NBC merger. The Commission chose to not take a stance on this issue and ask the Assistant City Attorney to reply that the Commission felt it had inadequate information regarding the details and potential impacts of the venture to take a stand. The Commission would be open to learning more and would also be interested in Comcast’s position regarding recent developments in net neutrality.
- V. **2010 Meeting Schedule** – It was agreed to cancel the May meeting but keep remaining monthly meetings as previously scheduled – including the starting time of 3:30 pm.
- VI. **Adjournment**