



**Portsmouth
Cable Commission Meeting
3:30 p.m. – October 8, 2009
City Hall/City Manager's Conference Room**

The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.

- I.** Call to Order - The following were present:
- John Gregg, Chairman
 - John Bohenko, City Manager
 - Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
 - Brian Gregg, Commissioner\
 - Bill Southworth, Commissioner

Also present were Superintendent Ed McDonough, Mitch Shuldman, School Board member, Suzanne Woodland, Assistant City Attorney, Alan Brady, Communication Supervisor, Glenn Gardner and Dan Freund. Excused absence: Nancy Beach

Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

- II. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2009 - MOTION** made by Brian Gregg to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2009. Seconded by Kathy Pearce. Motion passed.
- III. Educational Access Status and Opportunities** – Mitch Shuldman, School Board President, and Ed McDonough, Superintendent of Schools were present to get an update on the status of launching a public and educational access channels. They indicated it was a good time for the School Board to renew discussion of idea of an educational channel. The Commission updated them regarding development of public access and the rules in place for starting a third channel. There was discussion regarding how public and educational access efforts might initially work together, and the Commission offered to help the School Board in any way it could as they work through the process.
- IV. Public Access Development** – Brian Gregg presented the results of his work in drafting bylaws for the nonprofit organization which would govern the public access channel. He also provided a draft of a producer agreement that could be used by the nonprofit organization and an update on a timeline for moving the process forward.

There was discussion about how and when to present this information to the City Council. The City Manager suggested presenting it initially on November 16 and asking for a vote at the December 7 meeting when they have had time to digest the material. This was agreed to by the Commission. The City Manager also asked whether the City Council would be asked to approve the bylaws or just note them in authorizing the establishment of a nonprofit organization to administer the public access channel permitted to the city by Comcast.

Suzanne Woodland said she would confirm with the City Attorney that the Council would not need to officially approve the bylaws.

There was discussion regarding various aspects of the draft bylaws. Commissioners then turned in their written comments to Brian Gregg who offered to make revisions. He also offered to update the timeline to reflect a City Council vote on December 7.

Suzanne Woodland and the Commission thanked Commissioner Brian Gregg for his excellent work in preparing these drafts.

It was reported that Commissioner Southworth has reserved PortsmouthPublicMedia.com and .net for use by the nonprofit corporation to be established. The Chair reported that he attempted to reserve the name with the Secretary of the State of New Hampshire but was informed of a possible conflict with the Tidal Media Group in Portsmouth. He reported the Tidal Media Group was agreeable to providing their consent to use the name. Suzanne Woodland agreed to ask them to sign a paper to this effect.

- V. **Brief Update on Comcast** – Suzanne Woodland reported that Margeson and Feaster have their cable boxes, and additional contracts for other PHA properties are moving forward, The Chair thanked Suzanne for her work and persistence on this.

The next meeting will be October 22, 2009.

- VI. **Adjournment**