

**Town of Acton
Cable Advisory Committee**

Thursday, December 22 th, 2011
16A Craig Road

Attendees:

Cable Advisory Committee: John Covert, Michael Geis, Bret Murphy, Chester Ruszczyk, and Oleg Volinsky

Acton Community Access Television, Inc. (ACAT): Dick Calandrella

Selectman: Michael Gowing

We toured the new ACAT facility just off School Street on 16A Craig Road, which will have a grand open in January. The new facility has several times the area of the previous facility at the high School.

Meeting was called to order 7:40 PM

Cable Advisory Committee's minutes of October 20 was read and approved.

Citizen concerns:

Chester said there is a large coil of cable hanging off a utility pole on Ethan Allen Street in Acton. The solution is to take a picture of the problem and send to both Verizon and Comcast. Oleg will send Chester the points of contact.

Dick Calandrella discussed ACAT:

The 1100 sq feet high school facility was too small for the needs of ACAT. Additionally items that are banded in the school, knives, alcohol etc. are now acceptable. For example, cooking shows that use knives or liquor are now possible.

Richard Presti assisted ACAT in looking at server facilities we picked this facility at 16A Craig Road.

We now have over 100 programs and 12 programs this month, 177 members of which 68 have taken our course.

We have a volunteer board of 6, and looking for a seventh member. Board meets 7:30 AM on a weekday, but the meeting time can be adjusted to accommodate the volunteers.

We plan to hire an executive director by March or April.

Phil Summer and Richard Degon have shows, which have been pickup by other towns

ACAT supports and films many of the town's public meetings, athletic events, NARA Park, etc. We cover live all the football, and hockey events. ACAT is considering selling

the DVD of the games. Although, we are no profit we can still sell items or have paid advertising.

ACAT provides a quarterly report and annual report to the board of selectman.

General discussion:

Oleg suggested advertising for the 7th committee member, but it would be a conflict of interest for a Cable Advisory Committee member to be on the board.

The cable committee's next task will be Comcast contract in ~ 2 years.

Town has installed robotic cameras in the schools and town facilities.

John Covert discussed completing the transition from analog to digital signal.

Dick Calandrella believes ACAT needs other sources of income. The major income is from the cable TV companies, Verizon and Comcast. If fewer residents use cable TV our income could decrease.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 PM.