

BOXFORD CABLE ACCESS TELEVISION (BCATv)
501(c)(3) Non- Profit

Boxford Cable Access Television Corporation, Inc (BCATv) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, which operates two local cable television stations accessible by the residents of Boxford.

Our Government Access station broadcasts 16 hours per day, 7 days per week on COMCAST Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 39 and features live and taped government meetings of the numerous volunteer committees and boards in Boxford.

Our Public Access station broadcasts 24 hours per day, 7 days per week on COMCAST Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 45. This past year we recorded, produced and broadcast over 400 programs that featured Boxford residents or events that happened within 5 miles of Boxford's borders. BCATv also operates a public access television studio at 256 Georgetown Rd in Boxford.

As we enter our 9th year of service to the residents of Boxford, we are facing several challenges.

The primary challenge is the upcoming contract negotiations with COMCAST for a new multi-year franchise agreement as a cable television provider in the Town of Boxford. Future funding for BCATv is a part of this agreement.

Under current FCC regulations, each municipality has limited jurisdiction to award or deny cable television franchise agreements. The Boxford Cable TV Advisory Committee has the responsibility for negotiating a multiyear franchise agreement with COMCAST. These agreements typically have a 10 year time life span and are executed by the Board of Selectmen. This committee is also appointed by the Boxford Selectmen and is independent from BCATv.

Two of our BCATv Board Members, Brad Sweet and Rick Rivers, sit on the Boxford Cable TV Advisory Committee and have participated in several meetings in 2013 to launch the COMCAST franchise renewal process with a target completion date of June 2015.

As part of the current ascertainment phase, over 1,200 Boxford households returned a detailed survey on various cable television related questions, many of which were concerning BCATv. Through this survey, the residents of Boxford provided valuable feedback that the Boxford Cable TV Advisory Committee is currently reviewing, organizing and categorizing for a future public hearing with the residents of Boxford in late Spring 2014.

One of the requirements for negotiating this new franchise agreement is that the BCATv Board of Directors will work very closely with the Boxford Cable Advisory Committee. We need to ensure that our current expenditures and future needs for the next 10 years are accurately estimated based upon what we know today and what we may reasonably expect will occur in future years over the course of the multiyear franchise agreement.

Our goal has always been, and will continue to be, providing the most government and public access programming for the most reasonable cost to the cable subscribers of Boxford as we participate in the COMCAST franchise agreement renewal process.

In recapping 2014, our Public Access group had a very productive year.

As an example, we recorded and produced over 10 multi-camera music concerts at various venues in the Boxford area. Each concert was very different, ranging from classical, blues, jazz, rock, country, and tribute bands. These concerts were fun to do and are entertaining to watch on our local access COMCAST Ch 8 and Verizon Channel 45.

Other public access events we produced included the Hampton Beach Sand Castle competition, year round Masco high school sports and concerts, several segments of Around Town in studio interviews at 256 Georgetown Rd, youth sports, parades, Spofford School concerts, adult sports, library events, and many other events of local interest. We also sponsored 4 Masco students for their Senior Internship program this past Spring. One student recorded a multi-track CD at our studio using our state of the art audio recording system.

Our Government Access group has diligently been recording meetings that are held in the Boxford Town Hall. Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 are wired with remote cameras and multiple microphones. The other conference rooms rely on a free standing camera on a tripod to record both the audio and video. Often times there can be 5 simultaneous meetings going on at the same time. This presents a tremendous challenge for Lance Cluster, but he always manages to get the meetings recorded, uploaded to the web and scheduled for playback on a timely basis.

In the late Summer of 2013, the BCATv Board was contacted by the Topsfield Selectmen to reply to an RFP regarding the day to day operations of Topsfield Cable Access Media, which had been shut down for several months due to lack of volunteers from Topsfield.

After several public meetings, the BCATv board submitted a proposal to manage the Topsfield Public Access station for 1 year in order to generate public interest and to be able to turn over the operation to the residents of Topsfield at the end of 2014.

BCATv was awarded in the contract in late November and all costs associated are being funded by the Town of Topsfield. Our Board viewed this as being a good neighbor and is happy to be in a position to be able to help out. We actively assumed operations in early December 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Sweet

Scott Dahlgren

Rick Rivers

Boxford Cable Access Television Board of Directors