

Boxford Cable Access Television



www.BoxfordCableTv.com

Mission Statement

Boxford Cable Access Television Corporation, Inc (BCATv) is a non-profit organization, which was formed to strengthen our community through increasing and enhancing communication among its residents. Membership is open to all the residents of Boxford.

BCATv exists to provide Boxford residents and organizations with the tools and training needed to effectively communicate with one another and with our schools and governmental bodies through the use of television and other electronic media.

These resources provide community members with a non-commercial forum for ideas, opinions, information and creative expression originating at the grassroots level.

BCATv does not select nor censor programming, but rather our local residents, organizations, schools and government bodies determine what information is important to share with the community. The rules and procedures outlined in our Operating Rules are designed to ensure that resources are used only for intended purposes and that all who wish to participate have an equal opportunity.

Our goals are:

- Create a collaborative, participative and creative environment.
- Promote freedom of speech and freedom of artistic expression.
- Highlight Boxford's diversity, including: its agricultural roots; strong democratic local government; educational facilities, including its regional high school district; youth and adult sports; local artisans; and growing senior population.
- Nurturing producer driven programming ideas that are unimpeded by excessive regulatory control, ratings or commercial influence.
- Provide an inviting, nurturing and safe learning environment where it's ok to experiment and learn by making mistakes.

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Our History

Boxford Cable Access Television Corporation, Inc. (BCATv) was incorporated on September 20, 2005 as part of an agreement between the Town of Boxford and COMCAST Corporation during negotiations of a 10 year cable television franchise renewal license.

Under this agreement, BCATv would be responsible for managing and staffing a local studio in Town of Boxford. The BCATv studio is located in Boxford Town Hall, 7A Spofford Rd, Boxford.

Previous to this agreement, COMCAST had been managing and staffing a Public, Educational, Government (PEG) studio for use by the residents of Boxford, since the original 15 year cable television franchise agreement was signed in early 1989. This studio was originally located at Masconomet Regional High School in Boxford and later relocated to a COMCAST facility in Beverly.

Using a remote controlled 3 camera system, Boxford Cable Access Television Corporation's (BCATv) first live broadcast was in early December 2006, when we took over the broadcasting of local government meetings that were conducted in the main meeting room in Town Hall.

In January of 2006, BCATv assumed responsibility for all broadcasts on Boxford Channel 10 to COMCAST subscribers in Boxford. Funding for this endeavor is provided by the cable television subscribers in Boxford via a monthly surcharge on the cable television portion of their COMCAST cable bill. This is the standard funding method used by COMCAST for all of the communities it services in Massachusetts who have renewed since approximately the year 2000.

Channel 10 quickly became a focal point for the community. By May 2006, Channel 10 was broadcasting live and pre-recorded events from 7 am through 1 am each day.

Due to the volume of material available to be broadcast and replayed, there was minimal time remaining during the day to broadcast the Community Bulletin Board, which provides the viewing community with important notices regarding community happenings, public events, emergency notices, the Channel 10 programming schedule and other notices from non-profit organizations in the community.

In an effort to address this issue, BCATv split out government broadcasts in September 2006 to Channel 22, our government access channel, which broadcasts government related events 12 hours per day 7 days per week and a Community Bulletin Board the other 12 hours per day 7 days per week.

Live meetings from Boxford Town Hall are typically broadcast four times per week in the evening using unpaid volunteers, or contract labor as needed. During the balance of the time, taped meetings, meeting replays, and public service events are broadcast.

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Our Current Activities

As mentioned briefly in Our History statement, Boxford Cable Access Television Corporation's (BCATv) primary activity is to provide an infrastructure and technical expertise necessary to enable the residents of Boxford to create, produce and broadcast their own video presentations on Boxford Public Access Channel 10.

Currently 100% of our time is devoted to achieving this goal. Our funding is through our cable television provider, COMCAST, and soon to be Verizon, which ultimately charges each of their customers a surcharge based on a fixed percentage of the cable portion of their bill every month.

BCATv has designed and installed a state of the art automated broadcast studio with two DVD playback carousels holding 400 DVDs each controlled by a computerized scheduling system.

In addition to the playback equipment located at Boxford Town Hall, BCATv has created five "Studios in a Bag", which are fully functioning, single camera setups with a multi channel audio mixer and several microphones. All equipment is battery operated and totally portable for remote location use, such as a sporting event, nature walk, indoor/outdoor concert, public meeting, school room project, on location news cast, etc.

Post production work, such as editing content from a mini-dv tape and creating a finished DVD, is supported by two computer editing systems located in the studio at Boxford Town Hall. Installed on these computers is consumer friendly video editing software that is easy to use while producing high quality finished DVD's.

BCATv has friendly staff trained that is readily available to assist local producers free of charge. We also maintain a calendar of upcoming events, which any member can sign up to tape on a first come, first served basis. This calendar is updated several times a week and it's easy to request an event by email or by completing the Community Feedback form on our website.

Through a network of unpaid volunteers and contract labor, BCATv has provided the cable television subscribers of Boxford with 125 hours of public access event broadcasts and 43 hours of Community Bulletin Board notices each week between January 1, 2006 and August 31, 2006.

With the addition of a second channel on September 2006, BCATv has increased the hours to 182 hours of public access event broadcasts and 154 hours of Community Bulletin Board notices each week.

BCATv also maintains a public web site, <http://www.BoxfordCableTv.com>, for easy access by the general public to view notices, as well as more detailed access by registered members of BCATv.

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Future Activities

For calendar year 2007, Boxford Cable Access Television Corporation, Inc. (BCATv) has several initiatives planned to enhance our community and better achieve our goal of providing Boxford residents and organizations with the tools and training needed to effectively communicate with one another.

One of our primary objectives is to fund the wiring of a third meeting room at Boxford Town Hall with remote controlled cameras and audio equipment so that live meetings from Conference Room 2 can be broadcast live, or recorded for a delayed broadcast.

We also plan to enhance the audio capability in the other two meeting rooms at Town Hall by adding additional microphones and relocating the mixers from the broadcast room to the camera control room. These changes will better allow the camera operator the capability to fine tune microphone levels during a live meeting.

BCATv has begun planning the installation of 2 video editing workstations at our public library. The intention of this initiative is to provide easier public access to computerized editing equipment in other secured public buildings outside of Boxford Town Hall. The target date for completion of this initiative is mid-April 2007.

BCATv is also looking into funding updates to the lighting and sound systems at one of two public stages in Boxford, either the Community Center or Lincoln Hall. Both facilities feature a stage and seating for 75 plus people. BCATv has hosted concerts in the past at the Community Center in East Boxford Village and plans to use Lincoln Hall as well as an alternative site.

Additional funding ideas on the table are partial funding for the construction of a public bandstand, sponsoring cultural event(s) with the Boxford Cultural Council, partial funding of other broadcast related events or educational activities in Boxford.