

## LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen established and appointed the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Advisory Committee in November 2002 for the purpose of establishing a local cable TV access channel for the Town of Stow to provide programming in areas of public affairs, education and town government. As part of the governance agreement established by the Board of Selectman on August 9, 2005, the name of the committee was changed to the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC). Funding for operations of the channel is currently provided solely through a license agreement, originally with AT&T and now with Comcast. The cable station is referred to as "Stow TV."

The committee held nine meetings in 2006, fewer than in past years because the station is now operating on a stable basis with established policies. The committee made minor policy revisions, recorded in the *Stow TV Handbook*. Efforts were focused on consolidating and expanding the services begun in the previous year. We gained additional volunteers, increased the volume of local programming, and systematized operations. We built infrastructure to make it easier to record events at designated locations, and improved video technique and equipment.

Stow TV cablecast about 30 Board of Selectmen and Joint Board meetings. It cablecast six School Building Committee information sessions, and several other town board hearings and public information sessions. Additionally, Stow TV recorded and cablecast the Annual Town Meeting in May. It cablecast a "Candidates Night Debate" and an educational video on voting processes, and encouraged voter registration on the bulletin board with guidelines and election dates. Stow TV also contributed video selections from several Stow Town Meetings which Ed Newman helped incorporate into an educational video by the Massachusetts Association of Moderators.

Stow TV cablecast over 65 new locally-produced programs of local events during 2006. These included various local and school concerts, other school events, Memorial Day ceremonies, "Springfest," the Lake Boon water carnival, library and historical commission programs, educational speakers, school graduations, fire department events, Scout events, and more.

Stow TV implemented about 350 announcements during this time period. Many of these announcements used two or three slides for the complete message. A wide variety of local event announcements are continuously shown on the Stow TV bulletin board and updated regularly based on requests from community organizations.

About 40 "photo shows" were featured on the bulletin board, contributed by many citizens. These included pictures of library programs for children, Council on Aging trips, public and school concerts, school plays and programs, museum programs, parades, town festivities and memorials, scenes of Stow, and many other subjects and events.

Stow TV made its program schedules available to the public on the town web site, through publicity to local newspapers and school newsletters, email distribution lists, on the TV announcement bulletin board, and posted at Randall Library and the Council on Aging..

Stow TV volunteers equipped Hale school auditorium and Town Hall with infrastructure to support easier setup and breakdown for recording and cablecast of events. George Scraggs and Lew Halprin built two custom cabinets that provide permanent housing for video equipment. Lew also installed permanent wiring in Hale auditorium and First Parish Church. These improvements

make it much easier to record town government, school, and community events at these locations with a minimum of setup. We also purchased accessories that facilitate recording of events at sites with no permanent installations.

Volunteers Linda Stokes and Evan Ciriani recorded nearly all the Selectmen meetings. Linda also recorded all the School Building Taskforce monthly updates, and other events. Mike Jordan joined late in the year to provide technical advice and record several events. Jerry Horne, Tom Zimmerman, and Dan Magnussen helped with Town Meeting sound. Additional volunteers who helped with recording include Claire Lavina, Lori Hawkes, Jean McFedries, and Ted Perry. Scott Glorioso assisted with some concert recordings and provided technical advice.

Stow citizens who produced or submitted video or photo shows include Lew Halprin, Ellen Sturgis, Stow Webelos, Dwight Sipler, Brian Walsh, Dennis Wash, Beth Tobey, Carl Howe, Bonnie Willoughby, Jill Kern, Ross and Susan Perry, George Dargaty, David Gray, the Stow Board of Health, Highway Department, and Medical Reserve Corps.

Bob Mong and Robert Evans contributed technical help with installations and operation. Bob Glorioso helped with installation of wiring and technical advice. Linda Hathaway, Susan McLaughlin, Denise Flynn, Suzanne Morin, and the COA staff collaborated to help us operate successfully. A great many citizens contributed to forty photo displays on the bulletin board, including Greg Troxel, Lew Halprin, Ann DeCristofaro, and Jim Sauta.

Coordinator Anne VanTine managed the day to day operations of Channel 9, coordinating volunteer activities, implementing program schedules, managing the bulletin board, and handling equipment and administrative issues. Volunteer Lew Halprin contributed countless hours, producing many video recordings, providing technical services, and advising on station direction. Stow TV is intended to operate with volunteers and provide video access to town residents. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing video or photos, please contact the Coordinator at **978-897-7732 or by e-mail [stowtv@stow-ma.gov](mailto:stowtv@stow-ma.gov)**.

Several members of the committee stepped down this year. Town Moderator Ed Newman was a founding member who contributed much to shape the direction of Stow TV. Selectman Ross Perry provided excellent guidance, and video professional Andy Dunn helped with technical advice. Andy Dunn and Chris Funkhouser currently serve as Associate members.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan  
Robert Glorioso  
Len Golder  
Lisa Lavina

James Parr

Anne VanTine, Program Coordinator