

LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Stow TV Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 32) Annual Report for 2009

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). The cable station is referred to as "Stow TV" and is available on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channels 32 and 33. Funding for operations is provided through license agreements negotiated by the Stow Cable License Advisory Committee with Comcast and Verizon,

Coordinator Anne VanTine managed overall operations of the station. Assistant Coordinator Mary O'Loughlin implemented program schedules and bulletin board notices. She also contributed in other ways including digitizing and categorizing shows and securing a variety of music to accompany the bulletin board. Mary will be leaving Stow TV in early 2010. Michele Crosby and Kathy O'Keefe came on board in November to share the Assistant Coordinator job. As Technical Assistant, Lew Halprin made improvements to recording setups and devised innovative and practical solutions for various recording situations.

Stow TV recorded and cablecast two nights of Town Meetings as well as educational videos on voting and town meeting processes. It also encouraged voter registration on the bulletin board with guidelines and election dates. In addition, Stow TV produced and cablecast about 50 Selectmen and other town board hearings and public information sessions. Half of these were Selectmen and Joint Board meetings. Other shows included information on a wide variety of topics, many of which were controversial topics in Stow. These included:

- Lake Boon Drawdown proposal meetings
- Allowing dogs in Conservation Land meetings
- Harvard Acre and Assabet Water Company hearings
- Finance Committee hearings
- Lyme Disease Information
- Stow School Building Committee meetings and reports
- Affordable Housing Proposal hearings, workshops and reports
- Climate Change Forum by Stow Energy Working Group
- Assabet River Dam Removal and Sediment discussions

Local video producers submitted 85 new programs of local events during 2009. These included many local and school concerts, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies, "Springfest" festivities, the Lake Boon water carnival, library programs for children, school graduations, fire department events, Council on Aging presentations, talks at First Parish Church, Collings Foundation events, summer bible school children's projects, state politics, Stow history, forums on education and senior issues, locally written theater projects, shows by local artists, presentations on local environment and nature topics, fairs and charity events, and more.

About 15 additional programs of local interest were produced in neighboring towns and/or submitted by a resident or town or state department. Public health and safety topics included fire safety, hospital services and several shows about the various strains of flu. Residents submitted videos about help for unemployed residents, background on Massachusetts bills and regulations, performances by area musicians, books, and local wildlife and environment.

Stow TV implemented hundreds of colorful, eye-catching announcements on the "bulletin board" in 2009. A wide variety of local event announcements were continuously shown and updated regularly based on requests from community organizations. Many announcements provided public health and safety information and promoted local charities.

Many "photo shows" were featured on the bulletin board. These included pictures of library programs, Council on Aging events, school plays and concerts, town festivals, local concerts, local scenes, and many other topics. Many local photographers contributed including Jonathan Daisy, Paul Trunfio, Greg Troxel, Lew Halprin, Ann DeCristofaro, Dick Luxner, Valerie Pederson, Dwight Sipler, Jay Solomon, and others.

Stow TV program schedules were made available to the public on the town web site, through publicity to local newspapers and newsletters, in email distribution lists, in posters in several public locations, and on the Stow TV bulletin board.

Many people contributed time, expertise, and creative assistance. Lew Halprin, Linda Stokes, Mike Jordan, and Marika Barnett produced, recorded, and edited shows seen on Stow TV. Lew Halprin recorded or helped with video production of nearly every event in town. Shows produced by Lew formed the backbone of every Stow TV schedule. Linda Stokes recorded the Selectmen meetings. Ralph DeFlorio helped record events at First Parish Church. Mary O'Loughlin wrote and planned an original play to be produced in early 2010.

Bob Mong kept the computers running. Robert Evans assisted with technical issues. Gerry Horne managed Town Meeting sound. Scott Glorioso assisted with some concert recordings. The video producers specified video equipment needs with LACAC member Bob Glorioso advising, leading to acquisitions that made recording easier, more reliable, and better quality. LACAC members contributed time and advice for spending and policy decisions.

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 email stowtv@stow-ma.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan
Chris Funkhouser
Robert Glorioso
Len Golder
Lisa Lavina
Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator