

STOW TV and LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2013

The Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC) was created by the Board of Selectmen in 2002. LACAC established and oversees the local cable TV access station for the Town of Stow. This station, known as Stow TV, is intended to provide programming in areas of public affairs, education and town government. Funding for operations is provided through license agreements negotiated by the Town with Comcast and Verizon.

Stow TV is available in Stow on Verizon Channels 32 and 33 and Comcast Channels 8 and 9. This year Stow TV allocated the even-numbered channels primarily to Public programming, and the odd-numbered to Government, with Schools and Education across all channels. The Stow TV schedule is published in the local newspaper and on the Stow TV web site at stowtv.org

Stow TV operates with a small staff and volunteer producers. Residents are welcome to use Stow TV equipment for video recording or editing and to submit or request video shows. Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing video or photos, or assisting productions may call 978-897-7732 or email stowtv@stow-ma.gov. More information about Stow TV is at stowtv.org.

Coordinator Anne VanTine managed overall operations of the station in 2013. Assistant Coordinator Kathy O'Keefe worked closely with producers to plan program schedules and prepare video for cablecasting. She implemented and publicized program schedules and created bulletin board announcements. This year she expanded availability of town and school information with the Government Channel. As Technical Assistant, Lew Halprin made improvements to recording setups and devised innovative and practical solutions for technical problems. He advised the other videographers on nearly every video event, and kept all the video equipment operating properly. This year Lew installed video infrastructure at Town Hall.

Marika Barnett, Jonathan Daisy, Lew Halprin, Mike Jordan, Linda Stokes and Anne VanTine produced the majority of new shows seen on Stow TV in 2013. Rebecca Stadolnik, Evan Daisy, and Anne Farris also operated cameras and mixers. Linda Stokes recorded most of the Selectmen meetings. Lew Halprin was always willing to fill in or help, and provided the lion's share of shows. Ralph DeFlorio, Scott Glorioso, and Paul Trunfio assisted with sound for some recordings. Bob Mong and Beth Tobey provided IT support. Gerry Horne and Lee Pappas managed Town Meeting sound and Lew Halprin managed Town Meeting technical setup.

Stow TV purchased its first tapeless high definition (HD) camcorder in 2013. Some excellent shows were produced with it, notably by Jonathan Daisy. However, the video producers are still learning how to use it most effectively. A new Go Pro camcorder also enabled innovative shows. Producers began transferring video files electronically and exploring alternative formats.

Stow producers created 225 new shows and public service announcements in addition to 25 Selectmen meetings and two Town Meetings. About 50 shows produced outside of Stow were cablecast, including 15 school committee meetings. In all, Stow TV cablecast 320 different

shows during the year. There were over 1350 shows in the video archives at the end of 2013. Many shows from previous years were replayed for annual events or special occasions. This year Stow TV's "Ernest Goldman Festival" featured dozens of performances from the archives.

Stow TV helped educate residents about local issues and the actions of their government. Selectmen, School Committee, Town Meetings, and other school and town events were shown. Implementation of the Government Channel created a showcase with plenty of air time for these recordings. The bulletin board encouraged voter participation with registration and election information. Many shows entertained and educated with a focus on Stow, covering a wide array of concerts, school events, and local organizations.

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

Stow TV collaborated with Bolton and Lancaster access stations to install infrastructure in the high school auditorium, and the three towns shared videos of mutual interest. Collaboration between Stow TV and the Randall Library also increased this year. The library sponsored many author talks and other entertainment. Stow TV worked with the librarians to create colorful announcements, and Stow videographers recorded 17 of these events to show on Stow TV.

LACAC met seven times during the year. LACAC members contributed time, advice, and oversight for planning, equipment, and policy decisions. LACAC members Bob Glorioso and Lee Pappas advised on equipment selection.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bernklow
Robert Glorioso
Len Golder

Lisa Lavina
Lee Pappas
Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator