

REPORT OF THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The year 2007 was a year of preparation for major changes in cable TV for the citizens of Abington. Verizon has been aggressively stringing fiber optic cable to residences in town and by year-end they had FiOS service available to nearly 80% of the households. They applied for a license to provide Cable broadcasts over that network along with their telephone and broadband Internet. This would for the first time bring competition and choice to Abington residents.

Three new members were appointed to the Advisory Committee, and we began working with Attorney William August and the Town Manager to negotiate a contractual License Agreement with Verizon. By the end of the year we were finalizing the language and terms and preparing to present a recommendation to the Selectmen for approval of the License.

Major issues addressed included the interconnection of the Public, Educational and Government (PEG) channels, the provision of service to the "entire" town, and future funding of local programming. These were being resolved favorably.

In other matters, the Committee began discussions with Comcast regarding renewal of their existing License (which runs through November of 2009). We anticipate that they will be looking to turn over management of the PEG studio to the town. Abington will likely be forming a not-for-profit public access corporation, which will run local programming and provide the signal to all providers. This corporation will be fully funded by revenues from the cable companies.

In the meantime local programming continues to be robust through the efforts of many volunteers and under the guidance of Justin Shannahan. This year we saw more government meetings, sports and informational programs, such as the Police updates than ever before. The Advisory Committee thanks all of the volunteers who make this possible and invite all citizens to take advantage of the free training and become involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry DiCarlo, *Current Chair*
Beth Golden, *Past Chairperson*
Pat Brangan
Donna Sloan
Trish Southerland
John O'Donnell