

Cable Advisory Committee

There was a major change in cable TV services for the citizens of Abington at the beginning of 2008. The Board of Selectmen awarded a license to Verizon and they have begun offering their FiOS fiber optic cable, now available to approximately 80% of the residences in town. For the first time, competition and choice are available to Abington residents.

Interconnection agreements were completed by midyear so that the local Public, Educational and Government (PEG) channels are now broadcast to subscribers on both systems. One disappointment was that Verizon has not activated their wire centers in Whitman or Brockton, so that FiOS is not yet available to areas of our town served through those locations.

Shortly after the Verizon contract was finalized, the town began discussions with Comcast, in preparation for a renewal of their license that expires in 2009. Negotiations are ongoing with the assistance of Attorney August and the Town Manager and we expect a successful outcome.

Consistent with cable renewals in most other towns, it is anticipated that Abington will form a not-for-profit Public Access Corporation and will take over the management and equipment of the local cable studio when Comcast's contract is renewed. Operations of this new entity will be funded by payments from both vendors.

Local programming continues to be one of our strengths through the efforts of many volunteers and under the guidance of Justin Shannahan and his supervisor, Dina O'Brien. Justin was honored at a Rox game this year for his services in supporting the Police Department. The Cable Advisory Committee thanks Justin and the dedicated and enthusiastic citizens who so ably produce the local programming and invite anyone with an interest to take advantage of the free training he offers. Become involved in bringing Abington events to all of us!

Respectfully submitted,

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