

BOLTON ACCESS TELEVISION

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Jennifer Robinson.....Video Editor
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Bolton Access Television Corporation (BATCO) is a private non-profit corporation formed in 2005 to operate Bolton's Comcast Public Access Channels (8 and 10). BATCO concluded an agreement with the Selectmen in August of 2005 to operate these cable television channels for the town. Funding comes entirely from Comcast subscriber fees, and donations.

Channel 10 is the primary "PEG" channel providing residents with live coverage of Selectmen's meetings and some school and School Committee meetings. Channel 8 is a reserve channel that may be used by Bolton to broadcast from the schools. Currently Comcast occupies channel 8 and broadcasts meetings from Clinton and Lancaster town halls. Bolton's Channel 10 is also seen in Stow.

2006 was a year of intense learning about the myriad of details involved in handling digital video and broadcasting on cable. Selectmen's meetings were taped starting early in 2006. The Annual Town Meeting in May 2006 was taped for the first time in Bolton's history. Church services at First Parish and Trinity Church are taped each week and broadcast for residents who were unable to attend the services on Sunday. BATCO also welcomes participation by other area churches in taping and broadcasting religious services. By October, BATCO set up a system of making DVD recordings of Selectmen's meetings and other important meetings, which are turned over to the Town Secretary.

The lack of physical space for a studio has hampered the rapid expansion that BATCO hoped for in its first year of operation. We hope in time to be able to acquire some town-owned space to create a "permanent" station and studio, so that volunteers can begin to create local productions of interest to Bolton residents. For now, the taping of local government meetings and school events will be our primary offerings.