



January 8, 2020

Board Message Regarding Westford Community Access Television

Dear Friends of WCAT:

Over the course of the last 2 years, the Westford Cable Access Television (WCAT) Board of Directors and its Executive Director has been working hard on a building a sustainable budget that could not only serve WCAT well for the next several years but also continue to provide the high quality services the Town enjoys.

Significant declining year over year numbers of Cable Subscriber revenues, which is where WCAT receives the vast majority of its funding, coupled with rising operational costs combine to create an ongoing forecast of operating loss of 6% to 10% per year. Despite efforts of the Staff and Board, our local fundraising efforts have not been successful bridging the gap.

The Board of Directors strongly believed WCAT cannot continue with business as usual and began a substantial review of our operations, services and obligations.

WCAT is bound by contracts with Comcast and Verizon as well as an extensive Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Westford which outlines mandatory meeting coverage and other commitments.

With the Executive Director, the Board of Directors vetted several different proposals and came to the conclusion that a change to the WCAT model was required to reduce costs to create a sustainable budget, which was supported by a Board vote. Subsequently, and regrettably, the Executive Director voluntarily submitted her resignation.

We appreciate and thank our Executive Director Lauren Horton for her many years of service and look forward to continuing to serve the Town of Westford richly in Public, Educational and Government (PEG) programming in accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding.

On Behalf of the entire Board of Directors,

Daniel Bush

President, Westford CAT Board of Directors