



January 20, 2020

Dear Friends of WCAT:

FAQ Regarding Status of Westford Community Access Television

Mission

The Mission of Westford CAT is unchanged. There are no plans to change it.

Promote and encourage the use of public access resources to enhance a free and diverse exchange of ideas and interests that foster community participation and education.

All WCAT team members and expense items in support of our core services are part of the 2020 plan and the community mission of broadcasting meetings and content of interest to Westford will continue without change.

Executive Director Status

Our Executive Director submitted a letter of resignation to the board, and so the Board has initiated a search for a new Executive Director. Two Board members are currently acting in Interim Roles supporting the staff and WCAT operations.

Executive Director Search

A Search Committee has been formed by the Board of Directors. Community participation will be invited in our search for a new Executive Director. Two members of the WCAT community will be asked to serve on this search committee.

2018 Annual Report link

<https://www.westfordcat.org/assets/Documents/2018-report-for-the-2019-annual-meeting.pdf>

WCAT 501c3 Bylaws

<https://www.westfordcat.org/assets/Documents/WCAT-By-laws-Amended-May-17-2012-Final.pdf>

Member Meeting

Several members of the Westford CAT Community have requested a 'Special Meeting' for members as permitted by the WCAT Bylaws. This meeting will be:

February 5th, 2020 7pm
Millennium School, 23 Depot St

NOTE LOCATION CHANGE TO ALLOW EASIER WINTER PARKING

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Board Direction

The Board of Directors continues to support delivery of core PEG services as described in our MOU with the Town of Westford and additional services most valued by the Westford Community as our budget sustainably allows. Following two years of Board approved deficit spending, and continued losses forecast, the Board determined a balanced 2020 budget was necessary for WCAT to be on a sustainable path.

Impact on News Delivery

The Board of Directors has not endorsed the wholesale elimination of news. In-House news coverage and community submitted news content will remain an important part of WCAT's future.

Many communities provide local news coverage through a network of volunteers with light editorial support. The News Director role was created in a period when budgets were flush and growing; it is not part of our MOU.

The Board of Directors determined that the most sustainable way to provide the best mix of community services was through the elimination of the full-time journalist position. Again, this decision to eliminate the News Division shall in no way affect meeting coverage or other programs created by our volunteers.

Status of Reserves

Westford Cat holds more than \$300k in reserves, or significantly less than one year of operation. In an uncertain time, with costs rising, revenues falling, and future funding models ill-defined the Finance Committee recommended to the Board that it avoid tapping WCAT reserves for a third consecutive year of planned deficit spending. This recommendation was unanimously approved by the Board.

How to Help

There are many ways to support WCAT. Please join the conversation and stay connected to your community. <https://www.westfordcat.org/support-us/>

Thank you for your support of Westford CAT

