

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cable Television Advisory Committee (CTAC) is a permanent committee. During 2006 our sole focus was the negotiation with Verizon Corp. with respect to its application for a new cable TV franchise serving the Town of Belmont.

Throughout the course of the negotiations, many meetings were held, attended by members of the CTAC, representatives from Verizon, and lawyers for both sides. The issues to be resolved were many, including both legal points, as well as significant business terms. In particular, the CTAC took extraordinary care to ensure that a Verizon franchise license would not trigger the "level playing field" clause in the previously-granted franchise license held by Comcast Corp.

After the successful conclusion of the negotiations, the CTAC recommended to The Selectmen that they grant Verizon a cable TV franchise. The Selectmen approved the agreement with Verizon on September 28, 2006 and Verizon now provides cable television services to the Town using its proprietary fiber optic network.

A major element of the new license requires Verizon to provide support for the PEG (Public, Education, and Government) access facilities, currently being managed by the Belmont Community Media Center, Inc. Under Verizon's new license, Verizon now provides the Town with funding to support the media center, as well as providing three channels (currently 28, 29, and 30) on its cable TV system, dedicated to local Belmont programming.

The Verizon franchise will serve the Town and its residents in many ways: providing a competitive landscape for cable TV service in Belmont as well as additional funding for the TV access studio. We anticipate that the new competitive landscape will provide more cable TV choice for residents and potentially lower prices and more value.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the fine work of the entire Committee. Additionally, I would like to thank attorney Peter Epstein, Dr. Lee McCanne (Director of Technology), and the staff of the Selectmen's office, for all of their help and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan B. Green, Interim Chairman