



230 Main St. #201
Brattleboro VT 05301

Telephone
(802) 257-0888

Fax
(802) 257-2322

Website
brattleboroTV.org

Board of Directors

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Vice President
Wendy Mason

Treasurer
Martin Langeveld

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Lynn Barrett

Joe Bushey
Beatriz Fantini

Executive Director
Cor Trowbridge

E-mail
cor@brattleborotv.org

September 5, 2014

Dear BCTV Member:

This is the time of year that the BCTV community gathers for our Annual Members Meeting. The meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 1 from 6 – 8 PM in our very own BCTV Studio**. We are celebrating the launch in May of a new website for brattleboroTV.org, which makes it easier than ever for BCTV staff and producers to submit and distribute local programs using online tools. RVSP to info@brattleborotv.org or call 257-0888.

Please join BCTV board and staff members for a light dinner, the “State of the Station Report,” producer awards, and the award-winning Year in Review Video Montage. In terms of member business, there are two board seats up for election, and the board has recommended some bylaw changes for ratification by the membership. Individual members who joined BCTV between July 1, 2013 and September 1, 2014, may vote. *To be a nominee for an open board seat, please send a letter of interest to cor@brattleborotv.org by 5 PM on September 26. (You must have been a member by September 1 to be a candidate.)*

Please note that the board recently voted to change BCTV’s membership fee from a suggested donation of \$5.00 to a fee of \$20.00 or \$10.00 for students and seniors. This change is due to the flattening of revenues from our primary funding source, Comcast, and the expansion of services that increase in cost every year. As always, fees will be waived as needed on an individual basis.

Enclosed:

- Your invitation to the Annual Meeting – the event is open to the public, so feel free to bring a guest or two.
- A 2014-15 membership form– please bring it with you, mail it in, or drop it by the office along with your membership fee.
- Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws – The Board of Directors recommends revisions to two sections of the BCTV Bylaws. Any amendment of the Bylaws must be affirmed by two-thirds of the members present at the Annual Meeting.

Here is a brief summary of the proposed changes:

Article	Topic	Explanation of proposed change.
III	Membership	Expands membership eligibility to individuals who live, work, and volunteer in Windham County. Currently membership is limited to Windham County residents.
IV	Board of Directors	Restructures board seats, eliminates municipal appointees that have been largely unfilled. New structure has six board seats elected by the members and three seats to be appointed by the board.

The decision to eliminate municipal appointee seats from the board will be discussed at the meeting. A detailed explanation is below:

History of appointee positions

BCTV was founded in 1975 and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1988. In 2001, the BCTV board amended its structure to include up to six appointee representatives for the towns in our service territory. This was an effort to improve outreach to towns surrounding Brattleboro, as the majority of BCTV's board members had been Brattleboro residents since the organization's founding in 1975. Though the Town of Brattleboro maintained an appointee from that time until the present, very few towns appointed a representative, and those were for a short period. Consequently, there have been 4-5 empty appointee seats on our board for almost 15 years.

Board recommends eliminating the positions

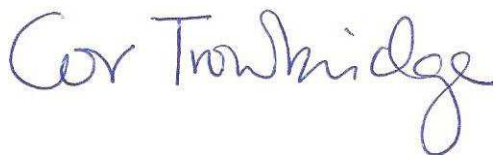
At its meeting of May 27, 2014, the BCTV board voted unanimously to eliminate all of the appointee seats, and will present this decision to our membership for ratification at the Annual Meeting. The reasoning is as follows:

- Appointee representative positions have not improved outreach to surrounding communities. Though the current board is geographically diverse, it is not through the appointee positions.
- Maintaining a board structure with multiple empty seats on an ongoing basis is not sound board governance. This is not an effort by BCTV to eliminate appointees; it is an effort to create a healthy board structure that reflects current conditions.
- Like other non-profits, BCTV is constantly seeking out new board members. The proposed board structure of six at-large members and three board-appointed members allows BCTV to seek appointees with skills and talents that will strengthen the organization and meet future needs.
- Geographic diversity is an ongoing priority. In 2011, BCTV officially expanded our service territory to the towns served by Southern Vermont Cable (Dummerston, Guilford, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend). Through the regular broadcast of Selectboard meetings (and Town Meeting Day) in all eight towns that we serve, we now have direct ties to each municipality and its community members. Just as having local programming from all of our eight towns is a priority, so it is for seeking board members from all of our towns.

Please feel free to contact me by email at cor@brattleboroTV.org if you have any questions or comments about the Bylaw changes. The agenda will allow time for member discussion of the changes prior to voting at the Annual Meeting.

Again, check out the invitation and send your RSVP to info@brattleboroTV.org or by phone at 257-0888 so we can be sure to have enough delicious food!

Sincerely,



Cor Trowbridge
Executive Director