



History of Granite Town Media

2024

February – FCC approved application for a low power FM radio station, 98.1-LP FM.

2023

October – First Milford Eats program released, highlighting Milford restaurants.

September – Board of Selectmen meeting room upgrade complete, new video and audio gear.

August – Game coverage now includes some middle school sports.

April – Increased franchise fee for Cable TV to 5%.

March – Set up podcast studio in Town Hall basement.

January – Chris G. (media manager) proposed doing a GTM 20th anniversary special. The first committee meeting was held in June 2005 shortly after Adelphia was granted a Cable TV franchise agreement in Milford.

2022

November – GTMAC voted to recommend increasing the Cable TV franchise fee to 5%, it is currently at 3%. GTM is covering ever more events and nationally cord-cutting (dropping or reducing traditional Cable TV subscriptions) is impacting franchise fee revenue. The BoS voted to approve our recommendation at their December 12th meeting. Per our franchise agreement Comcast has 90-days to implement the change.

August – Replacement VoD (video on demand) server went smoothly. This upgrade reduced the time it takes to post on demand programs and has increased storage space reducing the need to delete old programs.

June – New initiative: Milford Eats showcasing local eateries.

June – **GTM first** – collaboration with Milford Historical Society.

May – **GTM first** Andy K. (asst. media manager) produced the first GTM animated program titled: What is Granite Town Media.

February – Headphone jack attachments will be used at the Deliberative Session to allow officials sitting at the presentation tables to use headphones. Speaker placement in Town Hall Auditorium makes it difficult for official to hear.

February – Closed Captioning is an optional feature in the Zoom suite. It is real time so accuracy varies. Unfortunately it is only available on the live Zoom feed; it cannot be recorded for other methods of distribution.

2021

November - May - GTM first live parade coverage: Memorial Day, Labor Day Veterans Day and Jacques Halloween parade.

October – Consolidated Communications, the local telephone company, is rolling out FTTP (fiber to the premise) providing both high speed internet and traditional wired telephone service. They are not directly offering TV but have partnered with several OTT (over the top) companies that use the internet to deliver subscription based TV. As this is not traditional Cable TV it is not subject to the FCC Cable franchise fee.

July – Discussed 10-year capital plan. Wish list includes a TV studio and low power FM radio station.

May - GTM first Comcast HD (high definition) channel is live. All four GTM Comcast PEG channels: three SD (standard definition) and one HD are now digital improving video and audio quality.

May – in addition to Cable TV and the town web site GTM programs are now available on: 1) Apple TV, 2) Roku, 3) Amazon Fire, 4) Facebook and 5) YouTube.

January – purchased sports cameras that allow us to annotate video in real time.

2020

December – GTMAC member Nathalie Watson won 1st place in the Alliance for Community Media festival for her entry: Animal Rescue.

October – Comrex equipment has arrived and installed. This enables us to deliver live programs wherever an adequate internet connection exists.

September/November – significantly expanded election coverage: PSAs, blank ballot counting, absentee ballot preprocessing, multicamera live video from polling place and video coverage of sealed ballot box movement. Due to COVID-19 the polling location was moved to the high school for both the primary and general election.

July – configured town hall auditorium for hybrid Zoom meetings. This allows some members to be physically in the auditorium while others and the public attend remotely. GTMAC was the first group to use this technology.

June – **GTM first** produced high school graduation videos shown at the Milford Drive In to capacity crowd.

April – produced multiple COVID PSAs.

March – GTM purchased equipment and trained town employees in use of Zoom remote meeting software to facilitate social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

February – hired full time assistant: Andrew Kouropoulos. GTM now has two full time employees and multiple part time videographers.

January – revised Granite Town Media bylaws. Main changes are increase of the number of community members and created status of alternate member consistent with other town committees.

January – semi permanent camera and wireless audio installation in town hall auditorium. This provides multi camera event coverage without need for cameras and cables on the auditorium floor. Installation is similar to how the high school meeting room was setup.

2019

October – working with other PEG stations Chris has been able to broadcast select away games live on Facebook.

October – Tim Finan began podcast series interviewing Milford notables.

April – purchased DJI Mavic 2 drone. Primary use is aerial coverage of GTM events but will be shared with other town departments on an as needed basis.

March – Facebook is being used more extensively to provide additional way to distribute GTM programs. In addition Chris created the Granite Town Media YouTube channel.

March – web camera installed at the transfer station. Access is via the town web site the same as the existing oval cam.

February – began using Cablecast Reflect cloud services to cache videos. This provides unlimited bandwidth for live streaming and on demand videos. GTM videos are now accessible via Roku and Apple TV.

January – Chris Gentry hired as manager of Granite Town Media

2018

November – Upgraded lighting in Board of Selectmen meeting room

November – Board of Selectmen renewed Comcast franchise agreement for 10 years. Comcast agreed to provide one PEG channel in HD (high definition). Franchise fee remains at 3%.

May – GTM equipment at high school revamped, including dedicated power drop and UPS.

2017

December – new town web site up and running.

August – Joint project with school district to equip high school meeting room for multi-camera TV coverage.

Jan – Installed new video on demand (VoD) server and dual servers to live stream the EDU and GOV channel. We are hosting these services ourselves. New equipment has improved video quality and is mobile device friendly.

2016

August – Working in conjunction with IT director, Bruce Dickerson, we now have remote access to GTM equipment located at the high school.

July/August – Recorded three part Constitution Seminar conducted by David Alcox at Hampshire Hills.

March –Policy and Procedure manual revised to include Public TV channel

February –Recorded Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST) held at the Boys and Girls club.

Jan – Purchased mobile camera kit, consisting of three remote controlled cameras and video switcher. This will improve production value for meetings held at other locations than the BoS meeting room.

2015

December – Tim Finan set up a Granite Town Media Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraniteTownMedia/>

October – Purchased 5 portable handheld cameras for use by high school TV production students. Student programs will be broadcast by GTM. Equipment cost is shared equally between GTM and School District.

September – **GTM first** Installed oval web camera in Town Hall. Camera is accessible from the Milford home page. Camera has proved to be very popular, especially during Oval events such as the Pumpkin Festival.

June – Board of Selectmen requested GTM to expand coverage of as many meetings as possible including but not limited to: Pipeline Taskforce, Water and Sewer Commissioners, Traffic Safety Committee, Recycling Committee, Wadleigh Memorial Library Trustees, Capital Improvements Advisory committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Cemetery Trustees, and the Milford Heritage Commission.

April – **GTM first** Granite Town Media Advisory Committee meetings added to GTM meeting coverage.

April – Board of Selectman meeting room cameras upgraded. New equipment provides better image quality.

2014

November – School District web site added to link to GTM recorded events.

June – Developed Best Practices document for televised meetings. Handed out to committee and board chairs.

March – 10 year anniversary of Granite Town Media.

January – Purchased Symetrix audio processor for BoS meeting room. This should improve audio quality and supports remote access so Mike will be able to troubleshoot remotely.

January – Purchased new projector, first use was Town Deliberative session. Projector supports 16:9 widescreen and is much brighter than the old one.

2013

October – Purchased two Shure SCM820 audio mixers. New system allows better control of audio quality. Primary use will be school events. The old mixer installed in the Town Hall auditorium to provide audio for non-GTM events.

October – GTM branding: each videographer issued a GTM logoed shirt. Shirts are to be worn whenever they are conducting official GTM business.

August – GTM first Third PEG TV channel (Public) activated. It will be used primarily as a bulletin board.

August – Purchased a second Canon field camera, GTM now has the capacity to cover two simultaneous events regardless of location and three if one event is held in the BoS meeting room.

April – Time lapse camera set up to view Ambulance building construction.

2012

November – Policy and Procedure manual for Government and Educational channels completed and approved by BoS. This completes one of the original charges to the committee.

October - Tricaster 40 purchased. This is a portable multicamera studio mixer and is able to create and insert titles.

July – Upgraded Tightrope system to 4-channels in anticipation of activating the third Comcast PEG channel.

April – Illuminated “On the Air” sign installed in BoS meeting room.

February – Installed scan converter in BoS meeting room. Converter digitally captures computer presentation resulting in much better image quality.

2011

September – Board of Selectmen approved 7-year Comcast Franchise Agreement renewal. Same PEG capital provision as before, \$75,000 spread over three years. Franchise fee remains 3% of TV bill.

August - Purchased Canon professional field camera, better suited for our purposes than old JVC personal use camera.

April – Redesigned town web site goes live, includes links to GTM live and recorded programs.

March – GTM first Live Internet streaming of Town and School District deliberative sessions. Recorded meetings are now available for viewing at any time over the Internet.

2010

December – Mike McInerney began investigating feasibility of web based streaming and Video on Demand as another method to distribute GTM programs.

May – GTM Advisory Committee bylaws adopted.

May – Vendor selected to develop new town web site.

April – Mike McInerney hired as Director of Community Media.

March – Voters approved dedicating entire Cable TV franchise fee to GTM.

February – **GTM first** Live broadcast of School District deliberative session.

January – Members of GTM Advisory Committee met with Board of Selectmen to discuss funding and activation of 3rd channel for public access. Board of Selectmen voted to present the following warrant to voters at the Deliberative Session.

“Shall the Town vote, pursuant to RSA 31:95-h (II), to dedicate all income derived from franchise fees being collected from cable subscribers to the Cable Access Revolving Fund, for the purpose of funding the Public Education, and Government (PEG) cable TV access program, such dedication of funds to commence on January 1, 2011.”

2009

November – PEG Access Advisory Board unanimously approved name change to: Granite Town Media Advisory Committee.

October – **GTM first** Live broadcast of Milford High School varsity sports: Spartans vs. Souhegan.

October – **GTM first** Live broadcast of School Board meeting.

September – Installation of audio/visual cabling at Milford High School: lecture hall, café, gym, and football field press box completed. Events can now be broadcast live from multiple locations.

March – Voters approved establishment of PEG revolving fund.

March – PEG Access Board member, Tim Finan, experimentally streamed Government TV channel using the uStream service. UStream is used by other PEGs to make TV content available online.

February – **GTM first** Live broadcast of Town Deliberative Session

January – Selectmen Gary Daniels proposed Warrant article to create a PEG revolving fund. Setting up a revolving the fund allows monies not expended in one year to be carried over.

“Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund for providing cable access for public, educational, or governmental television use as allowed pursuant to RSA 31:95-h.”

2008

November – PEG Access Board adopted GTM mission statement:

“The mission of Granite Town Media is to provide resources to utilize electronic media to promote awareness and encourage participation in local government and education as well as to provide a forum for community expression.”

September – Comcast Cable franchise agreement extended 3 years.

June – New GTM logo approved.

June – Town Hall wiring upgraded to allow live broadcast from Auditorium and Banquet hall. GTM programs may now be broadcast live from the Board of Selectmen meeting room, Auditorium and Banquet Hall.

April – **GTM first** second PEG channel (Channel 20, Educational Access) activated.

January – High School students compete to create new GTM logo.

2007

December – PEG Access Advisory Board adopted the name **Granite Town Media** for Milford’s TV and Internet program service.

November – Satellite dish installed at Milford High School to receive NASA and Bloomberg TV.

October – **FTM first** Live broadcast of Board of Selectmen meeting.

October – Comcast uplink capability installed in Town Hall enabling live broadcast of Town Hall meetings. This complements existing capability at the HS/ATC

May – Board of Selectmen meeting room audio/visual renovations complete.

May – David Kirsch hired as full time Director of Community Media.

January – Board of Selectmen approved making the PEG Station Manager position full time, new title is Director of Community Media.

2006

December – **GTM first** School Board meeting recorded for broadcast.

December – Board of Selectmen approved outfitting BoS meeting room with fixed cameras and microphones for better A/V quality.

March – Station Manager resigned. Until a new manager is hired, the High School TV Production teacher, Terry Toland, stepped forward and on his own time along with that of volunteer students kept the program running.

March – **GTM first** Board of Selectmen meeting recorded for broadcast.

January – **GTM first** PEG channel (Channel 21) activated and previously recorded Budget Committee meetings became the first programs broadcast by Milford PEG Access.

2005

October – Cable Franchise Agreement transferred from Adelphia to Comcast.

October – **GTM first** Meetings recorded. Budget Committee meetings were recorded for future broadcast.

September – **GTM first** Station manager hired. Gerry Morin hired as part time PEG station manager.

June – **GTM first** Meeting of the PEG Access Advisory Board was called to order by Town Administrator Katie Chambers. The membership introduced as follows:

Gary Daniels – Selectmen and School Board representative

Rosie Deloge – School Administration Representative

Tim Finan – Resident Member

Joe Kasper – Resident Member

Deb Spratt – Town Administration Representative

Dave Godlewski – Alternate

Nolan Jones – Alternate

Michael Nelson – Alternate

The Following officers were elected:

Rosie Deloge – Chairperson

Deb Spratt – Vice-Chair

Tim Finan – Secretary

February – Board of Selectmen changed the PEG Access Committee's charge from that of a study to an operational committee. The new committee was renamed the "PEG Access Advisory Board".

"The PEG Access Advisory Board will be comprised of not less than seven members, to include a member of the Board of Selectmen, a School Board member, a Town Administration representative, a School

Administration representative, and three interested residents of the community. The Cable Access Television Manager, employed by the Town, will be a non-voting member of the Board.”

January – PEG Access Study Committee presented the Board of Selectmen with its plan to move forward. The plan included a preliminary budget estimate, policy documents, and a job description for a part time Station Manager. The Board of Selectmen approved the plan and gave the go ahead to begin a trial run.

2004

October – Board of Selectmen voted to appropriate up to \$27,000 from the Town’s 2005 operating budget for a PEG Access program, and to authorize the expenditure of the remaining \$54,400 from the Adelphia PEG equipment grant.

August – PEG Access Study Committee presented “PEG Access Study Report” to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen accepted all of the committee’s recommendations.

April – **GTM First** Meeting of the PEG Access Study Committee was called to order by Town Administrator Katie Chambers. The following committee officers were elected.

Tim Finan: Chairperson.
Joe Kasper: Vice-Chair.
Terry Toland: Secretary.

March – Board of Selectmen appointed a committee to investigate requirements to implement a PEG Access system in Milford. The following individuals were appointed to the committee:

Gary Daniels
Rosie Deloge
Tim Finan
Shane Hooker
Joe Kasper
John Leslie
Joe Pellitteri
Wharton Sanders
Terry Toland

The initial charge to the committee:

- 1. Collect information on other active PEG Access systems/programs***
- 2. Establish goals for PEG Access in the Town of Milford***
- 3. Determine and develop an operations plan, policies and procedure for the three (3) legs of the PEG program (Public, Education and Government).***

January – Rosie Deloge, Director of Technical Studies at the Applied Technology Center (ATC) at the Milford High School, John Leslie, ATC Steering Committee Chairman, and Tim Finan, an interested citizen, met with the Board of Selectmen to discuss beginning an effort to establish a Public Educational Government (PEG) Access program in Milford.

2003

September – Board of Selectmen signed Cable Franchise Agreement with Adelphia Communications. Agreement contains provisions for up to three PEG (Public Education Government) Channels and \$74,400 in startup funding.