

TOWN OF NOBLEBORO BROADBAND COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm (EST)

Via Zoom - Topic: Nobleboro Broadband Committee

1. Call to Order
 - a. Attendees: Quorum Present - Chair Peter Gabbe, Marty Welt, Nate House, Michele Hallowell, Mark Morrison, Bill Silver, Marianne Pinkham
 - b. Public members: Selectman Richard Powell
2. Updates
 - a. Funds Status (Peter) – \$5,200 in the bank and approved for additional \$5,000 planning grant from Island Institute. \$10,200 at our disposal.
 - b. R&D (Marty) – Continues to follow Starlink and announced premium service that will give 256 MB/s symmetrical.
 - c. Digital Equity (Mark) – Developing a strategy and will discuss potential for classes to connect and get equipment to further digital equity in the community. Recommends setting up a web page with links to all services and applications to apply for device or a relief and potentially develop training sessions. Offer these to those who would like to take advantage of these opportunities. Query if we will subsidize those who cannot to connect to broadband for alternative methods. Marianne explained that the National Digital Equity Center is doing free digital classes that would assist in the manner described; suggests putting those links on the website. Can work with Town Clerk Sue to put the links on the current website. Need to see what we need to do to access grant money or any other places offering grant money that will cover supporting digital equity.
 - d. Press Releases (Marianne) – N/A
 - e. Survey results discussion (Bill/Peter) – Outlined the presentation to be given to the Board of Selectmen.
 - i. What questions should we ask the data?
 1. 10-12 unserved on West Neck Road does not have loops for homes in central section, but instead has a dedicated line.
 2. Identify the sources of the Social Media responses and potentially the median age of responders. Possibly want to use push notifications to encourage Town participation for younger demographics.
 3. Speed test data v. served/unserved and mapped? More important for State and County tracking
 4. Residences with office – how many are people who are using productivity, telehealth, and other on year-round property will change the appearance of the pie chart. Second homes overwhelmingly use it for productivity and telehealth.

5. Recommend doing what number of registered voters for expansion of using tax dollars v. not using tax dollars.
 6. Primary residents v. secondary home for using tax dollars v. not using tax dollars. – Our job is to determine what is and is not supported in the Town. Money outside of taxes is available based on what we intend to do.
 7. Same question posed for town v. private roads.
 8. Compare voter registration rolls against poll list against survey results
 - ii. Copies of presentation will be given to the Town Office, Selectmen, and posted to the website. Inquired with Lincoln County News about cost of taking out advertisement with the results of the survey. Could be a thank you for those who responded to the survey.
 - iii. Ought to interview the principal of the Nobleboro Central School
3. New Business
- a. Request For Information (RFI) – With Marianne’s help and Island Institute, we circulated the RFI to all members of the Committee. Plan to have it finalized by Committee to get it submitted to those parties likely who would create a build out plan and be willing to rely on the engineering plan developed. Nate discusses pros and cons of independent study by third party. Marianne suggests that Consolidated or Fidium ought to be included in the RFI. Peter discusses the possibility of phasing portions of the build out intentionally. An engineering study done by someone who can’t build does not account for anything done within internal facilities and only captures what is in the field open to them.
 - i. All are comfortable to submit the RFI when complete to the four companies discussed.
 - b. Select Board - Working Meeting Presentation (Peter/Bill) – Meeting of the Selectmen on February 23, 2022, at 5:00 pm. Will meet to discuss the findings of the survey and the mapping of the Town to explain the results of the survey and make the information public.
 - c. Set up meeting with subcommittee for future approach of the Broadband Committee.
4. Adjourned at 8:54 pm

NOTE: There will be a meeting on February 21, 2022 with a presentation by Nancy Prisk of the Southport Broadband Committee at 7:00 pm