

TOWN OF NOBLEBORO BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:30 PM – Zoom

BROADBAND COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

NAMES OF ATTENDEES AND ABSENTEES

Attendees: Peter Gabbe, Marianne Pinkham, Dean Levy, Bill Silver, Michele Hallowell, Nate House

Not in attendance: Richard Spear, Marty Welt

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Agenda:

- 1) Call to Order at 7:30 pm – Chair Peter Gabbe
- 2) Determination of a Quorum – 5 members present. Nate House arrived late. Quorum present at all times.
- 3) Welcome and Introductions
- 4) Review and acceptance of the minutes from the August 2, 2021 Broadband Committee Meeting - **Motion** to accept minutes, seconded. Vote 5-0-0. Minutes accepted.
- 5) Correspondence – None other than as discussed below.
- 6) **Old Business**
 - a) **Checks received** – Peter received checks made to the Broadband Committee (BBC) from its members and has not deposited them yet. He’s waiting on a few people, but we will have raised \$1,500, the equivalent of what the Town provided the BBC.
 - b) **Swearing in of all members** – completed by all members
 - c) **Update on Activities** (Bill/Dean, Marty, Peter)
 - i) **Tidewater meeting** (Bill/Dean) – Met with Alan Hinsey (Tidewater) for a tour of the facility and discussion of potential cooperation for necessary mapping. Takeaways included an overview of how a nearby Town went about its surveying/mapping: consultant hired, partially paid by Tidewater and partially paid by others, consultant determined the size of the project that would be needed for the Town, and cost (to be partially paid by Tidewater, grants, and remainder from Town) to build the infrastructure. In that case, Tidewater owns the infrastructure. The process takes time and Tidewater expressed it would appreciate any entity other than itself deciding order of being connected to broadband. BBC will explore working with Tidewater on these efforts. Understand that Nobleboro is uniquely positioned as the home of Tidewater and Tidewater knows its hometown inside and out, so there could be efficiencies with a cooperative approach. Bill – confirmed that Tidewater offers symmetric speed (same upload/download speed) if you ask for it and pay a slightly increased price.
 - ii) 5G (Marty) – *conversation tabled until next meeting when Marty can provide an update.*
 - iii) American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds emails (Peter) - Peter encourages members to write into Town regarding requests for funds to be allocated for BBC purposes and encourage others to do so as well.
 - iv) General update (Peter) –Peter – participated in Twin Villages (Damariscotta and Newcastle) meeting about broadband. Peter was asked if we were willing to join;

- Peter did not join at this time but ensured that we would remain on their mailing list. Likely we can join forces at a later date. Newcastle is far ahead of Damariscotta. Peter met John Foote is the Chairman of the Broadband Network at Cornell, so we are now on this mailing list. Peter made contact with Evan Goodkowsky, who will provide the BBC a proposal specific to Nobleboro for his boots-on-the ground marketing, education, and community involvement work. new proposal.
- d) Presentation Takeaways (All) – Nate – questioned what does it mean to get a town 100% covered with broadband, as explained Bremen has done? Marianne – need to also look at what percent is bundled verse single service within the community. Michele – need to ensure that we ask in our survey about whether services are bundled. The Bremen survey that was shared does not include that as a question.

7) New Business

- a) **Dollar amount to be requested from American Recovery Plan Act funds at Board of Selectmen’s September 27, 2021 meeting**
- i) Peter – competing interests for finite ARPA funds. The BBC will request a specific allocation of funds to assist with broadband expansion in Nobleboro. The BBC supports others’ interests in website, training, and Town office/remote capability (e.g., LCTV and Zoom).
- b) **Next Step on Mapping** – Peter – discussion regarding whether mapping ought to be done by Tidewater for its relatively quick turnaround time and institutional knowledge of the area, or done by an outside consultant, or through volunteer effort. Ability for BBC to use the mapping results is important. Time is sensitive because suppliers and manufacturers are backlogged. Noted that Damariscotta’s mapping is done through Tidewater’s contractor. Discussion of cost to cooperate and partner with Tidewater as opposed to outside consultant, whether we can obtain information on bundling, and assessment of expansion while avoiding overbuilding will be important considerations. Slated for Dean, Peter, and Bill (who already have been in touch with Tidewater personnel) to discuss terms and conditions of a BBC/Tidewater partnership for mapping. **Motion:** To authorize Dean, Peter, and Bill to negotiate the terms of a contract with Tidewater and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with said terms pending approval and finalization by the Broadband Committee and Selectmen/Town as necessary. Passed 6-0-0
- c) **Preparation of Survey-** Peter – Bill tasked with putting thoughts on paper as what we know about the Town, the survey, and what we need to do to conduct a informational survey. Want to increase responsiveness for Town surveys. Likely won’t get the survey out until we receive the mapping results, so mid-November the earliest. Will canvas types and styles of surveying options (i.e., paper mailings, survey monkey, Town website, social media, etc.) to ensure that we contact all tax payers regardless of their primary residency. Survey Monkey beneficial because automates the results, allowing complete analysis of data.
- d) **Consideration of Evan Goodkowsky** – *conversation tabled until next meeting. Peter to send emails and his proposed contract.*

8) Other

- a) **Motion:** For October, the meeting will be Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 7:00. Starting in November, all regular meetings will be the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm starting in November. (Next meeting will be Monday, November 15, 2021). 6-0-0

9) Adjournment – 8:56 pm

Time meeting called to order: 7:30 pm

Time meeting adjourned: 8:53 pm

CLOSING

Date and time for the Broadband Committee meetings: Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Monday, November 15, 2021, at 7:00 pm and every third Monday of the month thereafter.

Time of adjournment: 8:53 pm

Signatures by the secretary and chairperson

_____, Secretary

_____, Chairman

Date uploaded to website: _____