

**TOWN OF NOBLEBORO BROADBAND COMMITTEE
BROADBAND COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm (EST)

Via Zoom

A. Agenda

- I. Call to Order at 7:00 pm.- Quorum present: Peter Gabbe, Marianne Pinkham, Bill Silver, Mark Morrison, Nate House, Marty Welt, Dean Levy, Michele Hallowell
- II. Agenda Additional Items
- III. Intro of new committee member – Mark Morrison – experience in cybersecurity and government work.
- IV. Updates on Activities (Bill, Nate, Marty, Peter)
 - a. Tidewater & Spectrum (Bill) - We had a productive two hour meeting that gave us insight into Tidewater’s fiber capabilities and now look forward to a meeting on November 5, 2021, that will review the completed mapping exercise.
 - b. General Broadband correspondence updates (Nate) – Knox and Waldo Counties have a lot of involvement within the community. Midcoast Broadband Coalition held a Zoom meeting summarizing the prior Knox County meeting. Spectrum was the only party allowed to speak on the issue of broadband. Midcoast Broadband Coalition was not allowed to use ARPA funds and potential for funding of a regional ISP was not allowed. Nate will continue to monitor.
 - c. Research & Development (Marty) – Circulated background information regarding fiber, 5G, satellite, and cellular base options to provide choices for internet. These are future technologies that are not ready for current introduction into the market. For cellular, the provider gives you a router, which picks up the signal, and provides the WiFi into your home for a fee. The buildout would be technology placed on the towers. May be available in the future for 4G and 5G. The quality of your cell service would dictate the quality of the WiFi. The government is pressing cellular providers to speed up deployment of technology in rural areas. Used in Western and Eastern Europe. For satellite technology, there is a Starlink trial occurring in Maine. Maine Broadband Coalition members have joined the trial and are reporting. Only 1,000 satellites launched. There are drop outs, but planning to launch more satellites in coming months. \$500 up front charge, antennae on outside of house, and router inside giving WiFi. Marty to continue to circulate articles and provide updates. When companies are asked about the timeliness of this technology coming to market, all companies are saying the timeline is proprietary. Peter asked Marty to create an Excel grid of providers and metrics so that we can compare the information. Certain technologies have degradation occurring when overloaded bandwidth during certain times of day with intense usage. We do not know how many homes need to be connected. Technology advancements required.

- d. General Activity (Peter) – Bank account \$6,550 with all deposits. Shelley McKinney and Winchenbach have been communicating with us. Peter spoke with four different town clerks to determine how best to utilize our town's website. Continued coordination with Town Clerk of Nobleboro. Lincoln County Regional Planning Committee made a proposal for a part-time hire to work on broadband initiatives in Lincoln County starting in the new fiscal year (i.e., July 1).

V. New business

- a. Survey prep – getting started and proposed timeline – Working on a survey that will be revised in real time upon new information obtained. Will request reviews by people outside the committee. Goal to have it finalized for mailing to Nobleboro property owners by mid-November. Community input required before a buildout design. Very important to get participation in the community survey. Purposes of the survey: determine the quality of the service currently offered to citizens, will be the basis for applying for a grant to obtain funds from outside sources, will be a tool to be used for educating members of the community and obtaining agreement, and to qualify for ARPA funds for broadband it must be focused on the underserved (*i.e.*, has service but is either too expensive or poor service) and unserved (*i.e.*, does not have access).
- b. Outreach and education – getting started & timeline – Determine who will do the education. Possible options: Zoom classes, education at the school, third party who does boots-on-the-ground, community program from Digital Equity. Marty suggested that this needs additional work to focus the discussion. Possibly get Evan to give a presentation on how he'd conduct the education efforts. Options on what topics to educate community members: what services can be replaced with internet (*e.g.*, cable, bundled, cable, etc.). Cost and what you get for it. Translate speed into capability. The Broadband Committee's mission statement is expanded and improved service throughout the community. Mark to outline things for a presentation that could be helpful in educating the community. Places for education include church communities and rotary club. Marianne to discuss with LCRP and/or Digital Equity getting a meeting together.
- c. Twin Villages collaboration – joining, yes/no, why & when – Twin Villages has had fewer meetings than we have and remain in the formative stages of their broadband committee efforts. We currently have momentum. Will continue to monitor their progress.
- d. Discussion of committee process (Marty) – Requests that emails to those directly involved and copy others not directly involved if they opted in. Leaves the option for opting out for those who do not want to get a copy of everything. Replying should only be for reasons that are compelling enough that it cannot wait for next scheduled meeting. Peter – volume of emails is incredible and unable to have the bandwidth do this type of communication. Marty – would like to be more abreast of what is occurring in the subcommittees in real time. Peter – recommends direct participation in

subcommittees. Nate – the fewer the emails the better. Marty withdraws the comment.

- VI. Schedule for next meeting (Already scheduled for Monday, November 15, 2021, at 7:00 pm and every third Monday of the month thereafter.)
- VII. Adjourned at 8:38 pm.