

Broadband Committee  
Select Board Update Presentation  
December 1, 2021

Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the activities of the Broadband Committee.

The committee held its first official meeting on August the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have held monthly meetings on the Third Monday of each month as well as additional information/education sessions with representatives of the Island Institute & LCRPC and subcommittee work sessions as needed.

To date, we have accomplished the following:

- We have established a working group or subsets covering ISP (Internet Service Provider) contacts; Research & Development; Survey Development; Broadband Coalition and regional outreach contacts; and, editorial communications. We established a web page on the Town Website and have been posting our agendas, minutes and major information pieces to the site.
- We applied for and received a planning grant from MCF (The Maine Community Foundation); raised funds within our committee and received a small matching fund authorization from our Select Board. We also made an ARPA funds request of our Select Board for planning and development of a Broadband Strategy
- We arranged with Tidewater Telecom and received a preliminary engineering study consisting of town mapping our internet Service as well as a preliminary cost estimate for build out options.
- We contacted Spectrum for similar information and continue to talk with them. We are about to send them a cost request for various segments of our unserved roads.
- We are discussing various ISP options based on online research, other town's experiences to date and recommendations from third parties.
- We are finalizing a survey for town residents that will be released on approximately January 6<sup>th</sup> and distributed through multiple sources (local print media, online, U.S. mail and boots on the ground to insure as high a response rate as possible.
- We are monitoring the Twin Villages Coalition with an open invitation to partner.
- We have started to outline an education program for our residents.
- We executed a straw poll on election day asking citizens if they supported the expenditure of ARPA funds for research and development of a plan for the town's broadband needs and in spite of not having proximity to many voters, we received 238 signatures from 620 voters or 38+% subsequent to election day we have received an additional 50 signatures clearly showing our citizens recognition of the importance of this project.

Over the next several months, we will be looking to accomplish the following:

- Analyze the data we get back from our resident survey to better determine the community's needs from a service point of view.
- Continue to research alternative options for delivering that service.
- Prepare an RFI (request for information) and distribute the same to a select group of potential broadband service providers - both wired and satellite.
- Begin delivery of our community education program

Our MCF grant money as well as requested ARPA funds will be used to fund: survey costs; advanced mapping expenses; technology upgrades; facilitation services for our community outreach & education; and consulting costs for advanced project development. I am happy to report that to date, we have been able to avoid any expenditure for preliminary mapping and cost estimates.

As I stated earlier, we meet regularly via zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month and both you and the public are welcome to attend. The zoom link appears with our agenda on our web page.

I have asked representatives of LCRPC, Island Institute and the Bremen Broadband Committee to join us tonight with a goal of giving you insight into the broadband extension & delivery process; town education and funding methods. We believe insuring you too are given as broad an understanding as possible will help us achieve the best end result for our residents.

Thankyou,  
Peter Gabbe  
on behalf of the Nobleboro Broadband Committee