

TOWN OF NOBLEBORO BROADBAND COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm (EST)

Via Zoom - Topic: Nobleboro Broadband Committee

1. Call to Order: Chair Peter Gabbe, Marianne Pinkham, Bill Silver, Nate House (Quorum Present)
 - a. Members of the Public Present: Bill Soares
2. Old Business
 - a. Treasury Report (Peter) – No new payments made since last Report, but \$700 in unpaid expenses to be paid.
 - b. Presentation Update (Bill) – Video of presentation done and posted on Town website.
 - c. Town Meeting Update (Peter) – Warrant Article 15 was amended but passed in such a fashion as to not negatively affect our original request as adjusted down by the Select Board
 - d. Digital Literacy Update (Mark) – Mark continues to work on it.
 - e. Communications Update (Marianne) – Thank you advertisement published in the Lincoln County News. Will post to the informal Nobleboro groups on social media.
 - f. Research & Development Update (Marty) – More satellites are being launched by Star Link.
 - g. Request for Information (RFI) Update (Peter) – Spectrum declined to participate. Tidewater acknowledged receiving it.
 - h. Committee Officers (Peter) – The Broadband Committee was authorized to exist in August 2021. Current structure can be left until August, but there should be a change and organizational structure thereafter. Discussed possibility of rotating committee chairperson as opposed to a single person sitting in that position. Marianne can be the Committee’s liaison with the Selectmen while Peter can continue otherwise leading the Committee. Nate offered to do break-off tasks as required and execute them.

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Enter executive session – Bill Soares drops off of Zoom – to discuss Committee composition and membership.

Exit executive session.

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Bill Soares to be recommended to the Board of Selectman for swearing in as a member of the Committee.

3. Brainstorming
 - a. Prep of Engineering request – Discussed outlining data points we are intending to document in the advanced engineering study. It is unrealistic to achieve 100%

access to broadband, but is there something we can do in the Town's best interest. A phased approach currently is being contemplated. Bill would want to know the costs of finishing backbones and then determine how far unserved houses are from the backbone. Marianne suggests working with the schools to decide where the students with no access are. Once we obtain the engineering study information, we may want to have another survey asking people to help us prioritize installations based on current levels of needs.

- b. For advanced engineering study, need to identify what information we need for each address. Request that Bill Soares brainstorm all wanted data, audit the data against existing data with the help of Bill Silver and Peter Gabbe, and present to the Committee. Will need to select Committee members who will sit down with ISPs who answered the RFI. Marianne raised contacting Otelco to determine their interest in entering our market.
- c. Grant considerations – Need to analyze the various grant opportunities currently available. Marianne will spearhead determining which grant is best to pursue at which time. Currently need to pursue funding toward infrastructure and separately to support the needs of community members to afford connectivity.

4. Adjourned at 7:59 pm