

 <p>NOBLEBORO BROADBAND COMMITTEE CONNECTING COMMUNITY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Town of Nobleboro Broadband Committee Monthly Meeting Monday, June 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM Via Zoom</b></p>
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**Call to Order by Chair, Peter Gabbe at 7:00 pm**

**Nate House Appointed Secretary for the June 20, 2022 NBBC meeting**

**Present:** Chair, Peter Gabe, Nate House, Bill Silver, Bill Soars, Dean Levy, Marianne Pinkham, and new member Tina Streker

**Absent:** Dick Spear, Select Board Liaison

**Quorum Present**

**Minutes from the May 16, 2022 meeting of the NBBC approved as presented**

**Old Business**

- ✎ **Treasury Report** - No changes to funds since the NBBC’s last meeting, balance \$9,927.
- ✎ **Engineering Study** - Bill Silver update - Discussions on served/unserved, ~90 unserved but data shows ~200 Tidewater assumes more homes are served by Spectrum. Grant still up in the air, waiting for senior management to decide. General discussion on phase 1 only, nothing specific until grant. July decision might be made
  
- Bill Soars- Chris has preliminary unserved property distance from main road for connections data.
- ✎ **Digital Literacy and Equity** - Digital equity is important, selectman feel strongly regarding lower income residents not getting left out.
- ✎ **New Technologies** - Fidium presentation later
- ✎ **Grant Considerations** – Refer to e-mail from Marianne
- ✎ **Broad Band Happenings** – Locally, regionally, statewide, nationally – Refer to e-mail from Marianne
- ✎ **Confirmation of Select Board Support** – Up to \$50,000 from Nobleboro’s ARPA funding to be reserved for broadband connectivity grants where a community match is required.

## New Business

### 🗣️ Presentation by Deborah Wall – MidCoast Internet Coalition

- ↳ Twelve coastal towns and beyond looking for fiber options.
  - ↳ MIDC (broadband utility not for profit) did not get money from Knox County ARPA funding.
  - ↳ Looking for sources of funding.GWI, lot of VT work, approach with lots of towns.
  - ↳ Municipal entities struggle against competing with legacy commercial entities not wanting to provide fiber.
  - ↳ Taxpayer funded fiber should be owned by taxpayers, own infrastructure, like roads.
  - ↳ Their (MIC) funding source does not depend on taxes, separate entity from town removing that liability from towns/tax payers.
  - ↳ Grant funding, private investors, donations, utility can generate bonds.
  - ↳ Possible 1 GB up and down, for ~\$100/month achievable
- ? Can state level help motivate fiber providers (LCI)? Regulations/enforcements?  
New state level standards for minimum fiber service

### 🗣️ Presentation by Simon Thorne from Fidium a Division of Consolidated Communications

- ↳ Large capital investment for Fiber to the Home.
  - ↳ Fiber is expensive to maintain and operate.
  - ↳ Current DLS service is subpar; any new product will be fiber.
  - ↳ All symmetrical services.
  - ↳ Affordable connectivity plan, \$30/month for qualifying low income home.
  - ↳ Apps that provide the homeowner with monitoring and how much data devices consume.
  - ↳ Electronics on either end determine fiber capacity.
  - ↳ Power back up at their sites to prevent loss of service from loss of commercial power.
  - ↳ Different grants have different restrictions on how much money for served/underserved/non-served
  - ↳ Town money is weighted more heavily than provider money for grant applications
  - ↳ Fidium North Nobleboro service will rely on Waldoboro as the fiber would travel through there to Nobleboro
- ? Can we use Fidium for any leverage with LCI?
- ↳ Any LCI grants could potentially snub north Nobleboro

## **Additional Updates and other discussions**

- 🏛️ NBBC changing of the guard for Chair and other committee officers will take place at the Committee's July meeting.

### **Between Meeting Committee Member Assignments and Tasks**

- 📄 Read Marianne's e-mail with links and documents including information about the Alliance for Quality Broadband in Maine and the Southport petition drive to defund the public utility for broadband infrastructure approved at the Town's May 7, 2022 Town Meeting.
- 📄 Peter to reach out on overbuilding issue, the Nobleboro patchwork dilemma
- 📄 Marty to reach out to Waldoboro broadband chair

**Next NBBC Meeting – Monday, July 25 , 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Community Meeting Room at the Nobleboro Town Office so that the new digital meeting equipment can be utilized.**