

**MINUTES
CORNISH BROADBAND COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2022**

The Cornish Broadband Committee met on Friday, September 9, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the Cornish Town Offices. The meeting was in-person and via Zoom.

Attending

Members: Michael Fuerst (Chair), Kevin Noble, Shelly Brookings

Alternate Member: Nelly Palmer

Citizens Present: Bill Caterino, Bill Palmer

Zoom Attendees: John Dryfout, Norman Yanofsky

Absent

Members: Mitchel Davis, Corey Fitch, Cristal Hiatt (Secretary), and Stephen Jameson

1. Call to Order - Mike Fuerst called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Original meeting time of 4:30 PM was delayed 30 minutes to allow members' attendance to reach a quorum.
2. Minutes - Mike noted that Nelly would take the minutes of this meeting on September 9, 2022 due to Cristal's absence. Minutes of the previous meeting for August 22, 2022 were not discussed or approved.
3. Discussion of final draft of community survey - The discussion of the final draft of the community survey was tabled due to the absence of members involved with finalizing the community survey (Christal, Corey, and Stephen).
4. Delivery of the community survey via postcard/mailing town wide - Shelly briefed the Committee on the information she obtained regarding the town wide postcard mailing of the community broadband survey. The USPS postmaster in Cornish Flat says that we can do the town wide postcard mailing through "Every Door Direct Mail" at a cost of approximately 20 cents per postcard for the roughly 761 addresses in Cornish. The mailer will be a 6 X 9 postcard with a link to the survey and an option to get a paper copy of the survey. Cost is about \$150 for the mailing. Postcard will be generically addressed "To Postal Customer". Postcard will ask that surveys be answered within 3 weeks to give the Committee sufficient time to proceed to the next step and meet the January 2023 deadline to the Cornish Selectmen.

The Committee will also post general information about the community broadband survey in Connect Cornish and the Town Secretary will put a notice about it at the Cornish Town Office Building and on the town website. Date of mailing of the community survey postcard should not conflict with the Cornish Planning Boards mailing of their survey.

ACTION PLAN – Mike will request \$150 budget approval from the Selectmen to cover the cost of mailing the broadband survey postcard town wide.

5. Contact with possible broadband providers - Kevin said that the "Request for Information" letters were mailed out on Friday, August 26 and that the letter specified

that the ISP's respond to the Selectmen within 30 days of their receipt of the letters. Once we have the responses, we will know which ISP wants to participate in expanding broadband in Cornish.

6. Communications from the NH Dept. of Business & Economic Affairs about federal funds for expanding broadband in NH (NH BEA) - Kevin noted that the NH BEA meets September 15. The NH BEA is responsible for awarding federal funds that have been allocated for broadband construction in NH. Seven ISP's have applied for the first tranche of \$50 million in federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be awarded to one ISP for the build out of broadband to the underserved communities and we do not yet know if the Town of Cornish is included in that list.

New rules are expected to come out for the 2nd tranche of funds for the build out of broadband to underserved communities. However, Mark Laliberty, the Broadband Project Manager at the NH BEA says that the funds will likely be available for a 5-year period and do not need to be spent exclusively in 2023. Future federal funds could include matching grants. Funding will likely be focused on building out the fiber optics broadband which is becoming the preferred broadband for its durability and higher quality.

7. Other business - Mike discussed adding a second Alternate to the Committee as directed in the Selectmen's "Broadband Committee – Rules of Procedure – 6/20/22".

8. Public comment/input - Bill Caterino suggested making the broadband survey as brief as possible to encourage broader response rate. William Palmer suggested including in the broadband survey wording on the importance of good broadband as lack of it can negatively impact property values, home rental prospects, home sale prospects, telehealth, and remote school work.

9. Next meeting - Next meeting will be held at the Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom. Date and time are as yet to be determined to allow absent Committee members to check their availability. An effort will be made to set the next meeting date within 10 days. Meeting days will likely no longer be on Friday's due to Committee member's conflict with that day.

10. Adjourned - Kevin Noble motioned to adjourn the meeting and Shelly seconded it. Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nelly Palmer (Alternate Member and Interim Secretary)


9/12/2022