

## Meeting Minutes for Cornish Broadband Committee -draft

Chairman: Mike Fuerst

Date: May 22, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm

Cornish Town Offices

Townhouse Rd.

Cornish, NH 03745

Attendees: Mike Fuerst, Jason Bourne Shelley Brookings, Kevin Noble,  
Absent- Cris Hiatt, Nelly Palmer, Steve Jameson

The meeting opened at 5:33PM.

Motion to adopt January 10, 2023, minutes by Shelley, seconded by Kevin, passed with one abstention.

The committee reviewed the status of the 2 current broadband funding programs administered by the NH Department of Business Economic Affairs (BEA). The 2 programs are the Broadband Matching grant Initiative (BMGI) and the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD). Neither program is up nor running yet. BMGI final rules should be adopted by the beginning of July 2023. The BEAD Program may be designating a contractor to manage the program by early June. The timeline for the distribution of funds under both programs is not currently known.

The University of New Hampshire has established a interactive map of broadband coverage around the State, which will be updated regularly. The map is available to the public.

<https://broadbandnh.sr.unh.edu/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=31b1aeb597249239e588ae26caa759b> The public can interact and update the information about their own location. The information will be used to more accurately determine the number of “unserved” and “underserved” address locations in the State. The map currently shows that there are 837 address locations in Cornish, of which 168 (20.2%) are underserved and 61 (7.3%) are unserved. The statewide average is 2.6% for underserved and 2.0% for unserved address locations. The committee decided to place a notice in Connect Cornish to inform it of the mapping site and the importance of making certain that the information being used by UNH is accurate for their respective location.

The committee will reach out to Comcast, Consolidated Communications, NH Electric Cooperative, BEA, and to our local politicians to gather further information about plans for Broadband expansion in Cornish and to make certain we remain on their radar, especially where we have such a high percentage of unserved and underserved address locations. Shelley will contact Consolidated; Nelly will contact Comcast; and Kevin will contact NHEC. Jason will touch base with Senator Prentiss.

The Committee will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month with the next meeting being on June 26, 2023, at at 5:30 PM at the town offices.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.