

Meeting Minutes for Cornish Broadband Committee -draft

Chairman: Mike Fuerst

Date: June 26, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm

Cornish Town Offices

Townhouse Rd.

Cornish, NH 03745

Attendees: Mike Fuerst, Jason Bourne Shelley Brookings, Nelly Palmer, Steve Jameson

Absent- Cris Hiatt, Kevin Noble,

The meeting opened at 5:32PM.

The committee met with Matthew Conserva, Broadband Program Manager, Division of Economic Development, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs by Zoom.

He reviewed the state broadband grants that have been awarded to date. He then discussed the Broadband Matching Grant Initiative (BMGI). Originally (BMGI) was to be a 50% grant by the feds and a 50% match by ISPs and/or municipalities. However, because of the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Feds will now contribute 75%. It seems that the ISPs are willing to pick up the additional 25% without contribution by municipalities. This program which brings \$200,000,000.00 to NH will start near the end of August/early September. Unlike the previous grant programs the municipalities are integral parties to the application process and must be signatories on any application with the ISP. It is important that the ISP act as "lead signatory" as that party is the one responsible for the filing of all required reporting to the State. It may be beneficial to work with neighboring towns as part of the application process. Multiple towns can be included in the same application and it may be mutually beneficial to the towns by reducing the unit cost of supplying fiber to the more remote households.

Mr. Conserva discussed the importance of the state having accurate information concerning "unserved" and "underserved" households in the municipalities. He would like the committee to send to him any information and addresses we have for those households. He also mentioned that E911 address data was important and that under state law the Selectmen must consent to the release of this data to other governmental agencies. The data is needed to accurately map the unserved and underserved addresses in Cornish. A consent signed by the Selectmen for the release of that information to the NH Granite mapping program at UNH which is doing the broadband mapping for the State is necessary. Jason will follow up with that with the Selectmen. He stressed the importance of having town residents review the information on the map site for accuracy.

The state link to all of the broadband grant information and the broadband mapping site is located at <https://www.nheconomy.com/office-of-broadband-initiatives/broadband-resources>

The information on the state mapping will then be provided to the FCC broadband mapping site which will ultimately control the awarding of funds. So, it is important that our town's information is as accurate as possible. He noted that edits to the information on a particular address can be made at the map site by individual households.

He suggested the committee should contact the ISPS about the BMGI program.

After the zoom meeting the Committee discussed proposed strategies and agreed upon the following next steps:

1. Reach out to Plainfield, Claremont, Croydon and Grantham about their broadband plans and possibilities of working together. Mike will reach out to them.
2. Shelley will contact Jeff McGyver at Consolidated about scheduling a Zoom meeting with the committee
3. Nelly will contact Comcast about a Zoom meeting with the committee.
4. Steve will contact NH Elec. Coop. about a zoom meeting
5. Steve will try to make an Excel spreadsheet of the addresses for unserved and underserved households from our survey data.
6. Jason will follow up with the Selectmen on the E911 consent.

The committee discussed providing information to residents about how to access and report/correct their internet access and speeds to Granite mapping. The committee will make itself more familiar with how the mapping system works in order to provide a clear explanation to the public.

Motion to adopt May22, 2023, minutes by Shelley, seconded by Nelly, passed.

Next meeting on July 24 at 5:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.