

Meeting Minutes for Cornish Broadband Committee -draft

Date: August 28, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm

Cornish Town Offices

Townhouse Rd.

Cornish, NH 03745

Attendees: Mike Fuerst, Shelley Brookings, Kevin Noble, Corey Stevens,

Absent- Jason Bourne, Steve Jameson, Jessica Butell.

In attendance: William Caterino, Tift Rd, Cornish; Peter Martin, Plainfield

Attending by Zoom- Consolidated Communications/Fidium Fiber-Jeff Mclver, Sr. Mgr.-Governmental Relations; Brian Lin-Expansion Analyst; Sara Davis-VP Market Development

The meeting opened at 5:31PM.

The meeting started with a Zoom conference with representatives of Consolidated Communications (CC).

The committee explained to Consolidated our interest in partnering with an ISP to apply for BMGI grant funds. CC explained that it was planning to file one application, which would include multiple towns with a cost breakdown for each town. A final decision had not yet been made as to which towns would be included. The committee noted that the application submission date was coming soon (October 20, 2023), even though applications could not be formally submitted until at least September 5. The committee asked when the town would know if it would be included in the application. Mr Mclver noted that Cornish seemed well informed and knowledgeable about the process. He indicated that the town would be informed as soon as possible after September 5. He explained that CC will be adding fiber to the selected communities by overlashing the fiber on its existing DSL lines, with the ultimate intention to transition to an exclusively fiber network.

CC will be picking up the 25% match required by the grant, so the municipalities will have no financial obligation for the match.

The parties discussed the fact that both Cornish and Plainfield have 2 Telecom providers- Consolidated and TDS. The great majority of Cornish and at least 2/3rds of Plainfield are covered by CC. The BMGI grant permits more than one grant application per town but the covered addresses for each application must be separate and not overlap. TDS will be letting the State of NH know by October 15 whether it will be electing to accept AKA funds which would provide fiber access to all its customers in NH. If that were the case then the town would not need to contact TDS about BMGI funding. Sara Davis indicated that she would provide the committee with the TDS contact person.

The committee will send to CC our address information regarding served and unserved addresses in Cornish. Kevin will do so.

After the Zoom conference Mike informed the Committee that he had been in touch with the Town of Plainfield and that Peter Martin would be the contact person. Peter Martin indicated that he was just getting up to speed. The committee gave him information about available resources. Mike reported that he had a conversation with the Claremont City Manager, YoshiManale and that Claremont was willing to cooperate with Cornish if it might improve the chances of obtaining a grant which benefitted both communities. Mr. Manale indicated that he thought that Claremont had been one of the communities included in the 2nd round ARPA grant which had been awarded to Consolidated. In our Zoom discussion Consolidated did not believe that Claremont had been included. There appear to be a

number of addresses in the northerly portion of Claremont, which abuts Cornish which may still be unserved or underserved.

Kevin will contact TDS and Comcast.

Comcast has not been responding to our emails. We need to see if they intend to file a BMGI application and whether Cornish would be part of that Application.

Kevin will send our address data to Consolidated.

Mike will follow up with Peter Martin and the City of Claremont.

Mike will update the Selectmen.

Bill Caterino suggested that the committee submit updates on Connect Cornish and the committee thought this was a good idea and will do so in the future.

Motion to adopt the July 24, 2023, minutes by Shelley, seconded by Kevin, passed.

Next meeting on Monday, September 25 at 5:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.