

Meeting Minutes for Cornish Broadband Committee -draft-

Date: February 26, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Cornish Town Offices

488 Townhouse Rd.

Cornish, NH 03745

Attendees: Mike Fuerst, Shelley Brookings, Kevin Noble, Steve Jameson, Jason Bourne,

Absent: Corey Stevens, Jessica Butel

In attendance: Peter Martin- Town of Plainfield broadband representative; Dan Lloyd, Bill Caterino

The meeting opened at 5:32 PM.

The committee was updated on the BMGI grant which was filed on October 20, 2023 by HUB 66 on behalf of Cornish and Plainfield. No word from BEA or HUB66. Mike contacted BEA and spoke to the broadband initiative director, Matt Conserva, who indicated that the grant approvals might be ready by the end of January. As of the date of our February meeting there had been no decisions made on grant applications and in a follow-up email BEA has indicated that it will be "a couple" more weeks before decisions are made publicly. Jason spoke with Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington and she requested information on the number of unserved and underserved addresses in Cornish and Plainfield. Kevin will provide that information to Jason and the committee, based upon our best information.

A general discussion ensued regarding the accuracy of the address lists utilized by the ISPs and BEA and the UNH mapping project. Kevin had conversations with David Justice, the director of the UNH mapping project about our concern with the inaccuracy of the level of internet access associated with addresses in Cornish and Plainfield. We had hoped that UNH could do a bulk challenge to the FCC Broadband map (which is used as the basis for grant funding). David Justice indicated that based upon the contract between UNH and the State of NH he is unable to do so. However, he is interested in the information we have gathered, and Kevin will get that to him. Kevin will write to Matt Conserva to find out specifically how we can do a bulk challenge base upon the information we have obtained.

Kevin will talk with HUB66 about: 1. What they know about the status of the BMGI grant process; 2. He will request a copy of its most recent list of addresses in Cornish and Plainfield; and 3. What it knows about the bulk challenge process for inaccuracies in the FCC lists. The committee will provide the list to HUB66 if it wants it.

We have heard nothing from NH Electric Cooperative about the grant that was awarded to it to bring fiber to approximately 60 addresses in Cornish. We learned that NHEC's recently hired broadband manager has resigned. The issue of whether the FCC map excludes or includes the NHEC addresses when it identifies the number of addresses in Cornish and Plainfield which are unserved or underserved. It is a question to be raised to both NHEC and to BEA.

Mike noted that Fidium Fiber (affiliated with Consolidated Communications) has sent out an email to individuals who have "pre-ordered" Fidium Fiber internet, if and when it comes to their town. Fidium encourages individuals to pre-order and indicates that it will prioritize areas where there appear to be

great interest. Fidium's email included a link to "share with a friend" the information. Unfortunately, when Mike and Kevin both tried to use the link it did not work! We may contact Fidium to let them know. If the HUB66/ BMGI grant does not pan out we should encourage our communities to contact Fidium about our need for high speed internet services.

Mike will contact the NH Municipal Association about what efforts it is making to support towns in bringing high speed internet to their community.

The annual Town report was posted in ConnectCornish and Mike will ask to have it run a couple more times before the town meeting.

Mike will make certain the town report is posted on the Broadband committee site on Cornish's website.

Next meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.