MINUTES
BROADBAND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 1
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE
7:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING

1. **Meeting called to order** by Chairperson Thomas Sevigny at 7:00pm

Members Present: Jon Biller, Judith Dobai, Michael Gilroy, Tom Hays, and Thomas Sevigny

2. **Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting of July 12, 2021**: A motion was made by Jon Biller to accept the minutes, motion was seconded by Tom Hays. Motion was passed unanimously

3. **Finalization of strategic priorities and guiding principles for funding of a Municipal Fiber Network:** An updated list of priorities and principles was distributed, consistent with the discussion from the previous meeting. The consensus was that the listed principles and priorities reflected the positions and values based on the Broadband Committee's initial findings, research, and discussions.

4. **Discussion:** Census information was distributed and discussed - according to data 10.7% of homes in East Haddam have no household internet access.

   The committee reviewed a document from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Energy & Technology Committee regarding HB 6442: An Act Concerning Equitable Access to Broadband . Based on the document, the committee concluded that State's goals align with the Town's. It was noted that Federal funding may be possible, and is included in currently proposed legislation. The CCM and the State's positions also coincide with the committee's regionalization goals.

   The Committee plans to have a presentation for the Board of Selectmen meeting in September, and will recommend a broadband model based on a free access broadband network, as opposed to a municipal run broadband network. The suggested next step will be a professional feasibility study. The committee put together an outline for the September presentation:

   I. Executive Summary
   II. Principles/Priorities
   III. Options Details (pros & cons) – Cable. DSL. Etc.
   IV. Next Steps/Process for moving forward

Work was done on an executive summary. Michael and Tom H will work on a draft. Judith & Jon will work on the *Next Steps* section.

5. **Audience of Citizens** – None

6. **Adjournment -** A motion was made by Michael Gilroy to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded by Judith Dobai. Motion was passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 7:59pm

Meeting may be viewed on YouTube in its entirety: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-7dkEcCoaQ