MINUTES
BROADBAND FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY JANUARY 27, 2023
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

11:00 AM

YouTube recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AMjy-60fnw

Minutes of the meeting of the East Haddam Broadband Feasibility Committee

1. The meeting was called to order by Tom Sevigny at 11:02 am
    a. **Members Present** Craig Mansfield, Wayne Schulz, Tom Sevigny (chair), Irene Haines, and Tom Hays
    b. **Entry Point:** Nicole Banyai, Devin Cox, Jeff Christensen, Nick Gerhardt, Eric Banyai
    c. **Excused:** Patty Stricker

2. Approval of the minutes of 1-13-2023

3. Discussion of final broadband feasibility report

    - Nicole Banyai - Explained town insurance (Marine) expected to cover fiber, rest of infrastructure under a property policy, if town uses a 3rd party then need to ensure they have proper coverage/terminology.

    a. The expected savings of $50 is expected to be modified so that it doesn't make it seems as if the price would be guaranteed to be reduced
    b. A suggestion is that anticipated total households do not include empty (but buildable) lots. In most cases, you may build a connection to each lot (similar to sewer / water type utility) because it's cheaper to do all at once.
    c. Three options
        i. Stay as is (incumbents)

    ii. Municipal
    iii. Third-party
d. At what point are we ready to go out to bid?
    i. Jeff C: You should be able to get bids with this report. It seems that the first grant money will go to areas (the unconnected) that are not connected (i.e., DSL), and the incumbents will be very active.
e. Devin Cox: We don't know precisely what the rules for grants will be for CT. The report we have is sufficient to make grant applications or request bids.
f. Tom Sevigny: Over four years, there are expected to be grants available

4. Discussion of next steps
    a. To town selectmen - Thursday 5 pm March 2, 2023
    b. A new committee might be created if the project moves forward
    c. Jeff C: Next steps for the next committee
        i. Critical Decisions - Ownership/control - Decide the degree to which the town wants to control or influence the outcomes it desires for digital access
        ii. Governance - Determine the governance structure (Town Owned, Town Operated, Town Owned, 3rd Party Operated)
        iii. Business Operations Model - Decide on whether a vertically integrated (single ISP) or an open access model aligns with the town objectives
        iv. Procurement - Obtain RFP
        v. Planning - Finalizing budget and project plan
5. Next meeting Friday, February 10 2022 11 am to discuss what recommendations wil be made to the town selectmen.
6. Adjourned at 11:42 am