Broadband Implementation Committee

Regular Meeting

November 3, 2023/1pm/Zoom

Attendees

Tom Sevigney, Bruce Harris, Stan Conover, Stu Palmer, Irene Haines, Theresa Govert, Laurel White, Linda Zemienieski

Entry Point: Nicole Banyai, Eric Banyai

Meeting called to order 1:01 pm

Acceptance of Minutes both for 10/20/2023 and 10/26/2023- Motion made by Stan, 2nd Craig

Tabling for Election Day discussion. The table cloth is in, it is for a 4 foot table. Stuart has a card table to use, EDC has a tent Irene will secure. Flyers are ready. Irene will confirm the time the MOC allows for tent set up the night before. Craig will set up tent. Volunteers to man the table throughout the day is discussed and a schedule was arranged.

Community Education Campaign

All felt the 10/26/2023 were successful. We discussed offering another evening meeting because of the number of community events that same night conflicting with our meeting. The Senior Center was suggested by Theresa. We will consider another meeting after the election. Word of mouth from this meeting helped to spread the news. Entry Point will attend remotely.

We should also consider having a way to track attendance and contact information. This is something we also need to consider for the election day table.

Will we collect names and email addresses?

Will we have a tablet or other device where folks can sign in themselves?

Do we have steady service outside the MOC?

Irene suggested a postcard that includes the QR code that can be distributed and left at counters and other areas around town to spread the word.

Craig asked if we can include something in the next round of tax bills in January. No, these are outsourced and do not come directly from the town.

Craig suggested an insert into the local paper. Full page like the Citizens Guide. This is 2 sided-Craig asked if he can add his Emergency Management Services announcement for Everbridge to the 2nd side. This is a good idea, it connects emergency services to the new internet opportunity. The cost for the Citizens guide was $600-700, in color, double sided.

Tom informed us that we have reached 300 “interested” sign ups. There is now a lull. We want to see a resurgence and may see this after the election day event. We need to keep the infusion of info at a pace to continually prompt people to sign up.

175 people watched the Youtube broadcasts of the 3 10/26/2023 public meetings

Nicole will make sure the QR connects people to our website Easthaddamfiber.com and that the Youtube links to the public meetings are on the website as well.

Door to Door Campaign, Theresa is setting this up. She sees herself as the official door knocker as she is now more available.

Is the contact list updated? Have we double checked for the people who signified initial interest during the surveys being on the list of interested people?

Nicole will send a PDF of the 10/26/2023 meetings to those people where they will be able to push play for the Youtube presentations.

An overall clean up of the FAQs on the website for clarity and understanding was discussed.

General education during outreach and public contact experiences discussion.

Stan had a person ask about the consumer being able to decide where the demarcation is at the home. The answer is that utilities run to the home on a path and that same path will be used for the new fiber line.

Craig suggested a video or some way of educating people about the access to the services they experience now. If they have Google, they can still connect to Google the same way for example. The experience is the same.

The VBG box will not have an internal battery incase of power disruption. Either a generator or a separately purchased external battery option is available.

A discussion about running fiber through conduit and sharing space in conduits with other services ensued. Frontier and Comcast and other private industries will not share their conduits with other service providers. The opportunity of using the Municipal Gains allowances will be explored by Theresa. Right now we think we will use the same poles and conduits as Eversource but this needs to be clarified.

A concern was raised at one of the public meetings by Todd Gelston regarding EMF exposure. Craig clarified, this is a personal decision to manage. The same or more EMF exists with your cell phone, which you hold to your head, your microwave, cable service, etc.

A visual of what a dedicated fiber line looks like running down your street to each home will be provided by EP and included in the FAQ so visual learners have a better image of what that looks like.

Tom will compile an outline for further outreach planning and send that out to each of us in the next day.

Irene confirmed with the town newspaper that our articles will go out in the next cycle of the paper.

Meeting adjourned 149pm, motion made by Laurel

Next Meeting

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