Broadband Implementation Committee

Regular Meeting

January 5, 2024/1pm/Zoom

Attendees

Tom Sevigney, Bruce Harris, Stan Conover, Craig Mansfield, Laurel White

Entry Point: Nicole Banyai, Eric Banyai

Meeting called to order 1:05 pm

Acceptance of Minutes for 12/15/2023 motion Stan, 2nd Bruce

Discussion Signage

Craig is waiting for the proofs to come back from Erik (EP) because there was a sizing issue with the set up.

We can do 2 messages on the smaller lawn signs according to Craig for the same price, approximately $1000

One side will say *Affordable and Reliable*, the other side will say *Connectivity for All*

Shipping is presenting an unreasonable expense. Criag is now doing some research for local printing services where we can pick up the signs rather than delivery.

Tom will send an email blast to those signed up as "interested" to ask if lawn signs can be put at their residence.

We are at 532 signed up as "interested". It was quiet over the holiday.

The larger 4'x8' signs are a corrugated material that will need stakes added to and an auger needed to install into the frozen ground. Bruce suggested a smaller auger that can attach to a hand drill with torque feature. We will need to visit this when the signs arrive to best decide how to mount and install.

Tom is ordering 1000 postcards

Tom is still waiting to hear back from the Community Lions and St Stephens Church regarding presenting to them.

Tom is still waiting to hear back from the newspaper regarding the insert.

Irene is due to write an article for the paper, Tom will check in with her regarding the status of that article.

What is the Business buy-in? Tom will talk to EDC to find this out. Perhaps another opportunity to meet with businesses to find out the take rate. Laurel will go to the businesses to offer information and perhaps get a better buy-in percentage.

Post holiday we need to get back up to speed with getting the word out again.

Nicole from Entry Point said that Jeff and Brad are meeting with the USDA next week to start the conversation around financing options and nuances. She feels 4-6 weeks should give them enough time to have some options to offer us.

Brief discussion around costs for businesses versus homeowners. It is standard for businesses to have higher install rates than homeowners, we won't know definitively at this early stage.

Having businesses have a higher install rate may offset the cost to the homeowner.

As far as service rates, businesses may need more than 1 Gig and that fee would be decided by the ISP they work with.

There has been no further information from the State yet about when the Grants window will be open. So far they are still collecting information from various towns and cities.

Meeting adjourned 1:26pm

Next Meeting January 19, 2024

Respectfully submitted, Laurel White, secretary