Broadband Implementation Committee

March 1, 2024, 1pm, Zoom

Attendees

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

Entry Point Members: Erik Banyai, Nicole Banyai

Meeting called to order at 1:04pm

February 16, 2024 Minutes approved, motion made Stan, 2nd Craig

Lawn Signs

> Tom has been distributing signs around town, 50 out so far. Laurel has three to distribute, Irene has asked for an additional 6 signs, Stu asked for 3, Craig wants several more to pass around as well.
>
> The large signs are arriving today at the MOC, being stored in the Town Garage, Craig is going to check them out this weekend. Tom will reach out to several of us who volunteered to build the frames and start installing these around town properties.

Tom has written another article for the newspaper, Deb Dennett is also going to write a letter to the editor.

The new library director has reached out to Tom asking for signs for the library buildings as well scheduling for public presentations.

Stu has arranged for a presentation to the Community Lions at the March 26, 2024 meeting

School Resources

> Laurel spoke with the Superintendent and has permission for the committee to ask for our information campaign to go out on the school communications resources. We will start with the newspaper insert from a few months ago and then go from there. Perhaps the newspaper articles and such can also go out on a periodic schedule. This is further supported by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education recent article in The Journal they publish supporting the Broadband initiative through the American Rescue Plan Act. A statement will be made at the next Board of Education meeting regarding this.

State Grants

An in depth conversation about the process going forward including a review of the webinar DEEP hosted today about the Challenges Process application being the first step. The FCC map determines eligibility for underserved, unserved areas. Each municipality needs to complete this process application by March 30. Appeals begin April 1 and end April 30, final determinations and FCC decisions will be ready by July. The application process is data driven and very detailed. CT.gov Home/Department of Energy & Environmental Protection/Energy/Broadband Deployment/Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

The user guide should be available from the DEEP website any day. Laurel and Bruce will prepare a list of questions for Tom to push out to our 830 interested members to start.

Also today an email was sent from DEEP about Grant funding for ConneCTed Communities Grant Program to facilitate low-income and multi-family curb to home and business broadband infrastructure build out in underserved areas. We need to review this opportunity. The application deadline is April 30, 2024

We do not have an experienced Grant writer in our committee. Grants can be 100s of pages or as simple as filling in blanks on a few lines. Entry Point feels confident we have most of the information we need in our feasibility study and can assist us in areas otherwise.

As soon as Monday, March 4, 2024 Nicole from Entry Point should have some ideas about our funding options. Tom and she will discuss after her Monday meeting.

Tanya Burgoine our new Selectperson is now the liaison for the Broadband Committee. She may join us occasionally but will be receiving minutes from here forward.

Next Meeting

March 15, 2024, 1pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 1:59pm