Broadband Implementation Committee

May 10, 2024, 1pm, Zoom

Attendees

Tom Sevigney, Craig Mansfield, Stan Conover, Stu Palmer,

Entry Point Members: Nicole Banyai, Erik Banyai

Meeting called to order at 1:03pm

April 26, 2024 Minutes approved, motion made Stan, Craig

State Grant

The deadline extended for the ConneCTed Grant to 5/14/2024. Bruce and Tom working on this and feel certain they will complete by then.

Difficulties with the BIARRI(?) download. Nicole guides the committee through the process and file types. Craig can open and access these files(KMI) on town computers. Guided through the process of Snippit to cut and save as Powerpoint file to upload into the application.

The decision to go for the ConneCTed Grant versus the BEAD Grant was because the state feels that East Haddam is underserved. The FCC, who is determining the BEAD Grant, feels East Haddam is well served. We would have to challenge every single household connectivity with the FCC to be able to qualify as underserved. This would entail having every household connect with the FCC map to enter the information which is a complex and time consuming process.

Discussion of project cost estimate $19 million

Grant can offer up to $14 million, and the East Haddam Community would be responsible for $4-5 million. The $19 million was calculated using an underground installation model. This is the most expensive installation type. We do not feel the project will be mostly underground but it allows for a safer buffer and potentially a larger grant opportunity. We will not know the actual build out design until we do the next phase which is the Low Level Design engineering. The engineers will walk every mile of installation in the town to determine the exact types of installations we need.

A discussion of building the budget included discussions of RFPs for various stages

Discussion of service contracting moving forward

Craig asks if the typical install is done as a bundle inclusive of install, maintenance and operation and ISP. Craig is looking to determine if the consumer has one number to call when there are issues. Nicole answers that it depends. Some are handled as a bundle after install, with service, maintenance and ISP if the ISP offers that support and are local. Others are all piecemeal. It's up to us to determine that level of involvement as we plan going forward.

Nicole points out that the consumer will only have to call one number and that number is usually going to be the ISP for troubleshooting, for example, the box isn't plugged in or the password was changed.

Entry Point is the tier of contact. They can see on their software where the lines, or programming or diagnostics may have an issue. She feels confident that this is the more rare issue.

Craig asks if the town can have access to that same software. Nicole can ask Bruce, Head of Operations(Entry Point), if this is possible.

Outreach

Tom discussed the upcoming events for the committee

The committee will have a table at the upcoming Budget Referendum Tuesday May 14, 2024. Tom, Stan, Stu, Craig and Laurel will all assist throughout the day. The tent and table will come from the town. Tom will be there at 630am. Craig will be early as well. Tom will send a reminder out to the committee.

An insert in the paper will be coming out in the May 16, 2024 issue.

Discussion of recent newspaper letters from supporters

Theresa Govert is creating a postcard that is going out to every home in town saying something along the lines of "Join the other 1400 East Haddam residents interested in…"

The Memorial Day Parade using Rob Smith's truck while the committee walks along handing out information.

Sign ups on the website have dropped to 2-5/day over the last few weeks so the impact of the lawn signs is wearing off. The postcard, newspaper flyer, parade contact and tabling event should help to boost interest again.

Other

Nothing

Next Meeting May 24, 2024, 1pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 127pm