Broadband Implementation Committee

October 18, 2024, 1pm, Zoom

Attendees

Tom Sevigny, Craig Mansfield, Stu Palmert, Stan Conover, Laurel White, Linda Ziemienieski, Irene Haines

Entry Point: Nicole Cozzo, Erik Banyai

Called to order 1:03

October 4, 2024 minutes approved, motion made Laurel, 2nd Stan

Invoice for $260.48 for Entry Point renewal of Domain and Web Hosting, motion made Laurel, 2nd Stu

USDA loan update

> Nicole (EP) asked Linda if Irene has responded to the questions submitted by Karen Johnson, representative from Greater Community Lending, one of the lenders used by the USDA for funding. Irene has the questions but has not addressed them yet. The meeting with Karen is for Monday, October 21, 2024 at 11:30 to discuss the town's position in terms of borrowing. The meeting will be attended by Tom, Craig and Irene to discuss options, bonds, outstanding loans, etc. Karen Johnson would be the project manager if we use the USDA option.

State Grants

> In the first round of grants awarded, $28million was awarded to many town applications made by the monopolies in place such as Comcast, Verizon, etc. No individual town municipality looking to install Open Access received funding. In the 2nd round of grants $12.8million will be awarded. This 2nd round is a rolling application and awarding of grant money will happen on a first come first served basis. Discussion around requesting a grant to cover the low level engineering studies, which is where we missed out on the grant in the first round, as we did not have these low level engineering studies. Nicole (EP) is working with Quanta, a Telecommunication Construction company in Texas. This company is who Entry Point uses. They are putting a proposal together to give us an estimated cost on this low level engineering study. According to Tom, who was able to attend the most recent webinar about the grant application, the application is the same as the first round. This

poses many questions as we still do not have the engineering studies the application required to receive an award in the first round. There is no personalized criteria review.

Municipal Coalition discussion

At the first webinar for the 2nd round of grant applications, Laurel brought up concerns and frustrations about the application process requiring information such as the low level engineering studies the state required. This elicited multiple other municipalities to also weigh in with their frustrations. A coalition, spearheaded by Hamden, is forming to pressure the state. There will be a meeting at Quinnipiac University in November, Tom will send information out to the committee when he receives it.

Community Outreach

Irene informed the committee that there will be 2 public meetings next week at which she would be happy to lay out information about the Broadband Implementation Interest sign up. Tom says that sign ups have dried up over the last 2 weeks. There are over 1800 interested people but the more people are aware and interested, the better our positions will be for funding. Stuart is interested in attending to offer support in this opportunity. Tuesday October 22, 2024 and Thursday October 24, 2024 are the two Moodus Center Master Plan meetings.

Irene also suggested Project Safe Halloween as another opportunity. This is funded by Youth and Family Services, which provides all the candy and tables in the MOC gym on Thursday October 31, 2024. While the children take the candy, literature can be available to the adults.

Election Day may be another opportunity to table.

Broadband Implementation Committee Vacancy

As discussed at a previous meeting, Theresa Govert has informed Tom she can no longer participate. The committee was asked to spread the word and Pete Govert has asked to join. He will submit an application and be presented to the BOS at their next meeting.

Next Meeting November 1, 2024, 1pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 1:27pm