Broadband Implementation Committee

January 10,2025, 1pm, Zoom

Attendees

Tom Sevigny, Craig Mansfield, Stu Palmer, Stan Conover, Irene Haines, Linda Ziemienieski, Pete Govert, Laurel White

Entry Point: Erik Banyai, Jeff Christiansen, Devin Cox

Called to order 1:05

November 1, November 15, 2024 minutes approved, motion made Pete, 2nd Stan

Break for failed streaming connection 1:07pm

Meeting resumed 1:14pm

USDA loan update

> According to Jeff Chjristiansen (EP) any USDA business is on hold waiting for the new presidential administration to begin. He does feel that we may face concern regarding the USDA's opinion of using the network as collateral for this project. Jeff feels that waiting about three months to continue the pursuit of USDA loan action should allow for the settling in period of the new federal administration.
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> > If the USDA rejects our application for loan support, the committee must pursue a town back-stopped financial package with 25% backing.

Entry Point restructuring introduced by Jeff Christiansen

> Jeff informed the committee that Devin Cox will be taking over the leadership at Entry Point. Nicole Cozzo 's position as Sales and Marketing has her stepping back from working with us. Erik is moving to another project in South Carolina.
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> Discussion regarding continuation of website management
>
> > Jeff and the committee discussed ongoing support regarding the website and keeping updates flowing. The "interested" sign-ups continue to trickle in. We are at 1834 interested people. Jeff feels this will bode well for the USDA application process.

Discussion about Net Neutrality

Introduction about what Net Neutrality is and how it may impact the town's action toward an open network. Concerns about ISPs discriminating service volume by expecting higher paying clients to receive greater bandwidth for service. This argument also supports the opinion from the governing forces to say that this is not the FCCs domain and it keeps vacillating back and forth.

Public awareness campaign

Tom repeated again that having articles published in the town paper each month or 1-2 per month is important. He requested other members of the group to assist in this endeavor. He wrote an article last month.

Next Meeting January 24, 2025, 1pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 1:27pm