Broadband Implementation Committee

February 21, 2025, 1pm, Zoom

Attendees

Tom Sevigny, Craig Mansfield, Stu Palmer, Stan Conover, Irene Haines, Pete Govert, Bruce Harris, Laurel White

Entry Point: Erik Banyai, Devin Cox

Called to order 1:02

Minutes for 1/10/2025 meeting approved motion made by Stan, 2nd Craig

USDA loan update

Devin Cox (EP) informed the committee that Jeff Christiansen (EP) reached out to USDA and has not heard back yet.

Other funding options discussed in the past include private equity. Where are those options now? According to Devin (EP) the private equity options would ultimately lead to the funding source owning the service, not the town.

Irene asked if there were any grants available to Emergency Management that might assist with the town owned opportunity. According to Craig there are none.

Group discussion continued with recent receipt by several members of solicitation from Frontier with teaser rates for sign up, Comcast has plans costing about $130 per month and Frontier at $40 per month.

There are 1836 people signed up as “Interested” which is very close to the 20% take rate needed to attract loan opportunity.

Submissions to East Haddam News

Pete has drafted a letter to the editor.

Brainstorming of ideas for letters to the newspaper include:

Where we are now

Benefits to the town

Communication in general- the committee’s FaceBook page-is it active, who is updating it?

Theresa Govert set it up initially, Tom will look into it and will add to it and send out to all members on FaceBook.

Next Meeting March 7, 2025, 1pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 1:21pm