Broadband Implementation Committee

April 25, 2025, 1pm, Zoom

Attendees

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

Entry Point: Erik Banyai

Called to order 1:03

Minutes for 2/21/2025 meeting approved motion made by Stu, 2nd Craig

Next Steps

EntryPoint has zero update for us. Jeff Christiansen will reach out to the USDA in May to determine if there is any opportunity coming forth.

The State Grants through the DEEP were all awarded to incumbents, several municipalities that did apply were rejected.

A discussion surrounding the use of BANs (Bond Anticipation Note) which are short term, interest bearing loans applied for in anticipation of bonding jobs began. This was suggested as a way to move the process forward by achieving the low-level engineering study needed by the State Grant application process as well as the USDA financing option. The committee was reminded that the beginning discussions decided that avoiding town based funding was to be avoided. A suggestion of approaching the BOF to ask for appropriation for this study, which could be upwards of $200,00-250,000. Significant concern was discussed around town projects and expense already projected for the town bonding process lasting through 2029 would keep this Broadband project on the back burner through the next many budget cycles. Hopefully the USDA will start to open up for project support.

Since the two articles appeared in the East haddam news there have been an additional 20 sign-ups bringing our total to about 1865 which is about 52% interested.

Meeting adjourned 1:23pm

Next Meeting May 16, 2025, 1pm Zoom