Broadband Implementation Committee

June 20, 2025 1pm, Zoom

Attendees

Tom Sevigny, Craig Mansfield, Stu Palmer, Stan Conover, Bruce Harris, Laurel White, Linda Zemienieski

Called to order 1:04

Minutes for 4/25/2025 meeting approved motion made by Stan, 2nd Stu

Next Steps

We have heard nothing from the USDA. The agency, like so many others in the current federal administration, are closed for any new business. It looked very promising initially, and we hope moving forward there will be opportunities with them. State Grants dispersed through the DEEP have also run out. The second round of awards went to incumbent monopolies, like Frontier, Verizon and Comcast. This, we suspect, is the fault in the way the State of CT designed the grant application. Although it was open to all interested municipalities, the requirements to succeed were out of the range of cost feasibility for municipalities to absorb. Expectations that municipalities would have on hand or have the funds for a low level engineering study were discovered after the first round of Grant awards. Entry Point is still looking for other options but for now there is nothing. Craid underscored the difficulty for Grants in every area. The Grant funding is very tangled up with the new federal administration in every area.

Tom posed the question about how to move forward. This prompted much discussion and an agreement that we feel we should try to hold on for a while longer to see if anything starts moving forward again, federally. Many other comments and suggestions were made, including Stu suggesting we change our meeting schedule to every other month rather than once per month. Everyone agreed to this, Linda directed us in the process of changing the posted meeting schedule.

Meeting adjourned 1:18pm

Next Meeting July 18, 2025, cancelled

Next Meeting August 1, 2025, 1pm, Zoom