

Lincolnvilleville Broadband Committee
Minutes
April 5, 2022
Lincolnvilleville Town Office

Members present in the town office: Josh Gerritsen, Jordan Barnett-Parker, Steve Hand, Dave Perkins, Jay Philoon, Michael Kosowsky

Members present remotely: Steven Koltai, Arlene Jurewicz Leighton, Cheryl Nevius

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Josh Gerritsen.

There was no public comment.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting was made by Jordan and seconded by Steve H. The motion passed 7-0, Jay and Arlene abstained.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2022 meeting was made by Jordan and seconded by Steve H. The motion passed unanimously.

Josh informed the committee that the Lincolnvilleville Select Board declined to allocate \$5,000 for future studies by the broadband committee, and suggested the use of ARPA funds for the \$2,500 digital equity plan, which can proceed without further voter approval.

Discussion of questions for a survey of Lincolnvilleville broadband status and needs:

Be sure to include folks who currently don't have access to the internet, eg. "if you don't have access, why not? Do you want access? Is it too expensive?"

Wait to ask until we know more about the current status and possible approaches? Realistically, we have to limit the number of times we ask for input from the community.

We had good response to our last survey so not clear we need another

What price will those without service pay for service? We need to project a take rate as part of our planning.

What do people think they will need in the future? Do they understand, or should we educate them, on what the bandwidth numbers mean and the effect of multiple devices in the home on bandwidth requirements?

If the goal is to get speed test data, perhaps we just ask for a speed test and have space for an open-ended question like "what do you hope for from Lincolnvilleville broadband?"

Dave offered to write sample copy for a web page to ask folks to perform a speed test, and Michael offered to look into putting the Maine Broadband Coalition's speed test widget on our own page.

Discussion of LCI data and the map Steve H. received from LCI. Consensus is that we need more information about LCI's fiber status and plans.

Discussion of the MIDC feasibility report forwarded by Axiom:

Jay suggested it would be great to work with them and Steve H. said acting alone will be more difficult.

Josh suggested it may still be possible to work with them. Among their current challenges are that incumbents are promising to build in some areas but not all.

Steve K. asked if we can re-establish a timeline for our work, and Jordan said we need to understand financing deadlines in particular. Consensus was we need more information from Axiom.

Discussion of Tarana-Redzone document from Axiom: several members said they were not as positive about Tarana technology after reading Axiom's report, particularly concerns about coverage due to our varied topography and performance under rainy and snowy conditions. Michael said now that Redzone is moving forward in Litchfield we will be able to get actual results rather than conjecture. Josh emphasized Axiom's argument that a fiber installation should last 40 or 50 years and is based on open standards, unlike the Tarana solution that is dependent on a single vendor.

Josh made a motion to request a link on the Town of Lincolnville web home page to say "Take a speed test by clicking here" that leads to a page we design. Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Future agenda item: discussion of driving through the town to map fiber availability

Josh noted that MIDC will be meeting April 12.

Gratitude was expressed by all to Arlene for working to make hybrid and remote meetings an option for Lincolnville committees, to Josh and Jordan for working on those proposals on the Select Board, and to the Select Board for voting to allow hybrid and remote meetings.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jordan and seconded by Jay. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kosowsky