

Lincolnvile Broadband Committee
Minutes
May 12, 2022
Lincolnvile Town Office

Members present in the town office: Josh Gerritsen, Cheryl Nevius, Steven Koltai, Steve Hand, Jay Philoon, Michael Kosowsky

Members present remotely: Arlene Jurewicz Leighton, Dave Perkins

Members absent: Jordan Barnett-Parker

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Josh.

There was no public comment.

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting was made by Steve H. and seconded by Dave. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of collecting fiber coverage data by examining cable installations on telephone poles around the town:

Steve H. drove many of the main roads through town and took pictures of the wiring around the poles, and worked with Nate Brimmer from Axiom to annotate the photos. Lines he found include: cable TV line, which you can identify by dips in the line by the distribution boxes; telephone line, where distribution lines coming from the boxes hang arbitrarily; LCI fiber lines, which are often attached by mesh to the telephone line, and can be identified by loops of cable by the distribution boxes; cable belonging to other companies, eg. ATT; and fiber for the state's Three Ring Binder which often runs through horseshoe-shaped holders.

Difficult to tell with a drive-by survey if a house has fiber service, but straightforward to determine if it can have service.

To provide service to a new location, would want a fiber distribution box not too from the location; installing a new distribution box requires shutting down the entire network segment and opening up the cable.

May need to show 30% of home unserved to qualify for some grants. Steve H. has seen "unqualified" to mean more than 500 feet from the line, or more than only 250 feet from the line.

Josh asked about the work flow. Steve H. responded we drive around, two people per car, with map, notepad, orange safety vests and binoculars. Probably need only two teams to finish surveying the town. Want to see fiber distribution boxes at least every four poles along a road. If not sure, take note of the pole numbers.

Dave asked if we should survey camp roads as well. Josh suggested we survey every road with a taxpayer.

Steve H. will train those interested in surveying on May 23 at 5pm at the town office.

Next committee meeting will be May 26 at 6pm.

Discussion of how to proceed with LCI:

LCI should be asked if they are participating in the federal \$30 subsidy program.

Dave said once we have our fiber coverage data, a build out plan, cost and performance data, we can tell LCI what we need and ask what they can do.

Steven K. suggested that once the Maine Connect Authority has finalized its rules, there's the possibility that there will be provisions for public-private partnerships and a pool of money for underserved areas. We could then go to LCI with a straightforward business proposal: to jointly apply for the available amount subject to MCA's conditions. He thinks it could be six to nine months before the rules are finalized.

Josh suggested we should find out how to provide input to MCA's rulemaking process.

Michael asked why not go to LCI with that proposal without the MCA funding? Steven K. responded that grant funding will be an important factor, as without it the plan would require more town funding and LCI capital expenditures.

Josh said that partnering with LCI under their current offering – three year contract, no better than 100/20, mandatory landline, \$114/month – would not be the best we can do for the town, even if they built out the rest of the town at no cost. He suggested we should require one year contracts, affordable rates, symmetric bandwidth, no landline requirement, limit to annual cost increase.

Discussion of grant schedules:

Jay contacted Stephenie MacLagan at ConnectMaine and created a Google doc [https://docs.google.com/document/d/17rspwR2uwxeNzQDuxwBb7-O_nFaHUx1rJa4TxDwhoVU] with grant information

Arlene asked about the resolution of the speedtest data we're collecting and Steve H. responded that the full data will be available through Vetro and Tilson, and that Tilson will be doing grant management for the MCA, and Josh responded that the raw data can be requested from Maine Broadband Coalition.

Discussion of Axiom Feasibility study 4/19/22 draft

Steven K. would like to know when the final report will be delivered

Michael will request the map overlay that appears in the draft report to compare with the map Steve H. obtained from LCI and our drive survey

Michael reported that David Kinney said he will integrate our draft of our web page with the town web site, and Dave Perkins pointed out that he already has finished the task. The consensus was the page did not need the embedded iframe used in the draft, rather the "Run" button can

take the viewer to the Maine Broadband Coalition site. Josh will ask David Kinney to fix a navigation issue where the “Take a speed test and help Lincolnville improve internet service” link on the town home page isn’t linked directly to the committee’s page, and to include the committee’s minutes and the survey results on our page.

Steven K. pointed out that our appointments’ end in June; Steve H. said our charge is through September and Josh said he will check with David Kinney about our reappointments.

Steve H. shared that on June 9, Midcoast Women are presenting “Women and Broadband: The Push for Digital Equity.”

Motion to adjourn was made by Steven K. and seconded by Steve H. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kosowsky