

Town of Mt. Desert
Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021 @ 4:00 pm via Zoom

Members Present: Scott McFarland, Pete Cuffari, Kathy Miller, Kendra-Jo Grindle, Durlin Lunt (ex officio)

1. Approval of Minute

A motion was made and seconded (Cuffari/Miller) to approve the minutes as presented for the November 11, 2021, meeting. The vote was unanimous for approval.

2. Review of the Dec 7, 2021, Public Meeting with Consolidated Communications

Kendra Jo provided a synopsis of the meeting with Consolidated Communications who appear to be going all in regarding being a player in the broadband expansion movement. Currently they own 50% of the existing poles (power company owning the other 50%) and are looking at running fiber where their current copper lines are at no additional cost in those areas that they have committed to.

3. Update on VETRO Cares for ME Program

Kathy provided a brief update on VETRO Cares for ME Program. Appears that they are ramping up their staffing to be able to meet the needs of the expansion needs of the various groups they are working with. They are also reaching out to pole owners to solidify their database on existing poles, etc. There was also an extensive discussion regarding what VETRO Cares for ME provides for our work and how Casco Bay Advisors fits into the equation.

4. Update on Consultant Engagement with Casco Bay Advisors

Durlin reported that there is money available for the consultant work. He also checked with Casco Bay Advisors and reports that their previous quote is still valid. It was decided that we should meet with Brian Lippold (Casco Bay Advisors) again just to review the scope of his work to make sure it matched what we need at this stage in the process. This will be helpful since our next step will be to meet with the BOS next month to update them on our progress and to clearly articulate with them the need for this consultant work. Kathy will contact Brian and try to set up a Zoom meeting for December 14th or 15th at 4 PM. Hoping to meet with the BOS on January 6th.

5. Next Steps

- Kathy will set up a meeting with Brian Lippold of Casco Bay Advisors

- Durlin will add us to the Board of Selectmen's Agenda on January 6th to seek approval for the consultant work

6. Future Meetings

The next committee meeting will be Thursday January 13th at 4 PM via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott McFarland - Chair