

Town of Mt. Desert
Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2022 @ 4:00 pm via Zoom

Members Present: Pete Cuffari, John Fehlauer, Scott McFarland, Kathy Miller, Durlin Lunt (ex officio)

Also Present: Brian Lippold, Casco Bay Advisors

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 12, 2022 meeting were moved for approval, seconded, and unanimously VOTED for approval.

2. Discussion with Casco Bay Advisors re: Next Steps

Brian Lippold of Casco Bay Advisors laid out his suggestions for the next steps. He will share his study on the existing services in the Town with service providers in Maine and see if any are interested in speaking further about expanding services here. His expectation is that the two incumbent services – Spectrum and Consolidated – will be interested in talking, but unlikely the others will be. However, he also noted that businesses are changing their strategic plans often, in response to growing demand and possible public funding, so best to reach out to everyone. Furthermore, he expects Spectrum to give an estimate on what it would take to provide cable to fill the current gaps, and that Consolidated will give an estimate on the subsidy needed for them to build over existing DSL with fiber. He also noted the Town is not likely to receive much, if any, funding from the state because there is such high coverage of cable in place.

He will share that study with the providers next week and expects to hear back from interested parties in 1-2 weeks. Any firm proposals could take a couple of months. Time is of the essence. Service providers are all very busy. There are some grant application deadlines this October.

There was a discussion about wireless systems in the area, and the geographic problems with them here – aversion to towers on MDI, heavy tree coverage – that make wireless systems such as Redzone less attractive as an option. The tree coverage and some density issues also apply to the option of Starlink satellite coverage, which is also relatively expensive.

Brian will reach out to Durlin Lunt when he has updated information, and we expect to hear much more at the next monthly meeting.

3. Discussion with Tremont Town Manager re: collaboration

Kathy noted that the Tremont Town Manager, Jesse Dunbar, was unable to attend but informed us that their Town Select Board is considering the creation of their own Broadband Committee this coming Monday. He also noted they are still interested in collaborating.

4. Other such business as may properly come before this meeting

None

5. Next Meeting – 2nd Thursday of each month

The next committee meeting will be Thursday, August 11, 2022 @ 4 pm via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen W. Miller