

Town of Mt. Desert
Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2021 @ 4:00 pm via Zoom

Members Present: Pete Cuffari, Kathy Miller, Scott McFarland, Wendell Oppewall; Matt Hart and Bob Bickmore (ex officio).

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded (Cuffari/Miller) to approve the minutes as presented for the July 8, 2021 meeting. The vote was unanimous for approval.

2. Update re: Surveys

Kathy reported there have been over 200 surveys submitted in either paper form or online. There had been a few glitches with the online version that were worked out via a temporary version. The VETRO version is now in place. There was a discussion about regional partners and a question about extending the deadline for submitting surveys.

3. Community Engagement Events

There was a discussion about the public meetings. It was noted there have been small audiences, and a comparison to a recent program at the library that had over 80 people attend. There was a suggestion about reaching out to the congressional delegation, promoting reliability of a fiber network over Spectrum services, and a suggestion to invite potential regional partners to connect with us in November.

The next event topic will be on Digital Equity, to be held Tuesday, August 31 at 5:30 pm. It is hoped that Spectrum will be available in September.

There was a discussion about making the guest network at the high school better known so people could experience the speed of that system from the parking lot. It was recommended that tinging that into the Universal-Hazardous Waste Day event held annually at the high school would be a good date. People are there already and often waiting in their cars, so a great time to test out up to 10 gig service from their car. The date of that event for this fall needs to be determined. [NOTE: hazardous waste collection day will be Sept. 25, 2021 10 am-2 pm]

4. Consider Appointment of Frank Baltzell to Committee

A motion was made and seconded (Wendell/Pete) to recommend to the BOS appointment of Frank Baltzell to the Broadband Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor. Kathy will notify the Town office to have this added to the BOS agenda.

5. Other Business

Matt will be speaking to the SRA on broadband matters and will encourage them to complete the survey, and will speak of fiber optic cable as the “future proof” backbone of any network.

Next Steps

- Kathy will inform the Town office of the vote on Frank Baltzell.
- Next Public Meeting August 31 @ 5:30pm

Future Meetings

The next committee meeting will be Thursday, September 9, 2021 @ 4 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen W. Miller