

# AGENDA

Broadband Working Group August 4, 2022. 3:00 PM

Members Present: Martha Howell, Rachel Rubeor, Denise Dalton-Rule, Ben Levek,  
Renee Gray

- I. Reviewed minutes and action items of last meeting, July 7
- II. Survey
  - **Denise** reported 157 total responded. Demographics as expected show most aged 60-70. Most respondents have a form of internet at home. 65 of 115 said extremely important to have good internet. 44 of 116 said they use internet for work or studies. Most were satisfied with current internet. Some said cost is too high.
  - What key items should we address? Sounds like we have appreciation of good internet but still need to reach those who do not have internet access. **Denise** asked what info we can put on the website. Agreed on results of vote. We need to consider further how much to place out there.
- III. Conversations with other towns
  - **Ben** called Washington and Somerville. Very responsive and want to help as they can. Mostly grant funded. Did not appear to have used consultants.
  - **Renee** spoke to Roque Bluffs who are also willing to help.
  - **Denise** has read minutes but not called Chebeague which appears to have been slowed by efforts to get licensing through Consolidated. Also, Georgetown where much of the funding came from the primary individual donors. Could not tell if Spectrum has been a problem.
  - **Martha** spoke to Leeds which has filed for licensing, and signed contract with Axiom, and is ordering supplies for buildout. Highly recommend hiring a consultant to represent the town as we move forward. Also hired marketing firm for subscription outreach, including a web page. Spectrum was a huge hurdle with flyers and a lobbyist attending meetings. Have to step up your game to respond.
  - Next Steps- Finish our calls to other towns. **Rachel** still to call Isle Au Haut and Monhegan. **Denise** to contact Georgetown and Chebeague. **Nancy** to reach Arrowsic and Cranberry Isles. **Martha** to try again for Southport. Did they hire consultants? How are they meeting Spectrum?
- IV. Results of Town Meeting—

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- It passed! 23 to 14 Hurray!!! Much energy!!!! **Martha** noted the questions asked were reasonable and showed valid concerns, which we will need to address.
- What's next?
  - Contract soon.
  - Bonding should wait, but let's go for a working grant for the interim. From SCEC? From Island Institute? **Ben** will investigate.
  - We need to know if a building will really be needed. We did look at the room where the current equipment is located, which appears good sized. We need to ask Mark about this. Also need to get Mark and Howard talking. **Renee** will contact Howard to update.
  - Consultant to review process? **Renee** will ask Howard whether he can perform this function for us. **Martha** will call Luppold, the engineer recommended by Leeds for information and idea of cost.
  - Subscribers and campaign to get them? **Renee** suggested a flyer in the October tax bills. Mixed opinions on whether just another powerpoint sheet, or is it time for a professional marketing flyer? Can we use funds we have for that? **Ben** will check timing on getting a grant from either Sunrise or Island Institute.

### V. Next meeting

- **August 18 at 2 PM. NOTE THE EARLIER TIME.**