

## Lubec Broadband/Fiber Working Group Meeting

December 1, 2022. 2:00 PM

Attending: In person & Zoom: Martha Howell, Rachel Rubeor, Denise Dalton-Rule, Ben Levek, Renee Gray, Nancy Harrison, Myles Smith, Rebeca Herrigal

- I. Reviewed and accepted minutes from previous meeting, November 10.

### II. Financial

Balances of Grants:

- Connect Maine - \$1,419.84
- Island Institute - \$3,000.00
- ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) - \$105,584.22

Miscellaneous:

- Martha will ask Mark Ouellette/Axiom about suggestion that \$50,000 +/- be set aside in the broadband annual budget for miscellaneous expenses. Concern was raised about getting our request to the Select Board concerning ARPA funds.

### III. Matching Funds (required for project budget not funded through MCA grant)

- Letter from Town was sent to 3 local banks (Bar Harbor Savings, Bangor Savings, and Machias Savings) asking them to submit loan proposal to Town to serve as Bond Anticipation Note for Line of Credit necessary to complete construction phase of project.
- Amount is estimated to be \$1.3 million, and bank letter (proposal) needs to reflect terms, 1-year renewal paid at maturity.
- Bank responses need to be received in advance for Select Board to review at meeting on 12/21/22.

### IV. Axiom Contract

- Martha has contacted Mark Ouellette/Axiom to remind him a draft contract with the Town must be reviewed by Town's attorneys.

### V. Outreach / Marketing

- Group discussed timing for the next informational meeting with no consensus being reached. Concern is to wait until after we know about the grant, and whether to wait for the Select Board meeting about the line of credit. Certainly one will be held later in January, skipping December.
- In anticipation of funding approval by Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA), Broadband/Fiber Committee will meet with Rebecca/Frame Strategies to discuss and develop a plan for outreach
  1. Project Name – Consider “Connect Lubec” to create identity, brand, etc.
  2. Objectives to accomplish in a 3-month period after funding award is announced. This might include publicizing / improving Town website for Broadband early bird / pre-subscriber signups, capture the community’s attention, coordinate earned and paid media, expand digital presence/create Facebook page
  3. Identify and contact potential spokespersons to offer quotes, write opinion/editorials for media, write letters to the editor, etc. Denise noted she has spoken with people at Sunrise Senior College and at U Maine Machias who are willing to speak/write on the importance of reliable internet. Following are suggested names and person from committee assigned to contact them:
    - a. Roger Quirk – Denise Dalton-Rule
    - b. Ginny Morano – Renee Gray
    - c. Rhonda Welcome – Martha Howell
    - d. Dana Bradley – Renee Gray
    - e. Wanda Corey – Martha Howell
    - f. Andrea Poulos (Narrow Escape) – Martha Howell
    - g. Heather Tenan (Eastland Motel) – Nancy Harrison
    - h. Monica (Monica’s Chocolates) – Rachel Rubeor
    - i. Rhonda Welcome—Martha Howell

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 2 PM.**

**Major Focus of this meeting will be to strategize with Rebecca and Dave/Frame Strategies**