



MINUTES

October 17, 2019 at 10AM

Tamworth NH Town House

CALL TO ORDER: meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Co-Chair Hiland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Co-Chairs led everyone with the Pledge

ATTENDEES: Introduction & Attendance – Co-Chair Hiland again thanked Kelley Collins and the Town of Wakefield for hosting the last meeting and thanked Becky Mason and the Town of Tamworth for hosting today's meeting. He also asked to go around the table with introductions and also to sign the sign-in sheet.
Representatives present: Glenn Coppelman (NCC), Rick Hiland (Co-Chair – Albany Alt.), Steve Know (Co-Chair – Albany Rep), Paul O'Brien (Wolfeboro), Denise Roy-Palmer (WEDCO), Chuck Fuller (Effingham), Grace Fuller (Effingham – Alt), Rebecca Mason (Tamworth), Melanie Streeter (Tamworth-Alt) John Colbath (Conway – Alt), Bill Gassman (Moultonboro), Kelley Collins (Wakefield), Julie Dolan (Sandwich-Alt.), Bill Carney (Freedom), Pat Farley (LRPC), NH Rep Jerry Knirk (CC Delegation), Chuck Henderson (Sen. Shaheen Rep.), Jac Cuddy (MWVEC), Leo Dwyer (Sandwich Rep).

Excused: Ken Robichaud - Clerk
Guest Speaker: Carole Monroe from ValleyNet
Public: 11 members of the public present.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Carole Monroe – officially announced that she awarded grant to the committee. See the attached description of the grant to these minutes – **Attachment #1**.
- Carole Monroe also passed out a list of needed information that she would like the committee members to locate and gather for the feasibility/financial study. See attached list to these minutes – **Attachment #2**
- MINUTES from September 18th – Motion by Glenn Coppelman to approve as presented, seconded by Becky Mason, and passed unanimously by all present.
- General news & update - Co-Chair Hiland briefed everyone on the things that he and Steve have been doing since the last workshop/meeting:
 1. Met with GWI President & COO (Kerem Durdag) and MatrixDG (Chris Lynch) on September 23rd at the Albany Town Hall.
 2. Met with residents in the Wonalancet area of Albany, Tamworth, and Sandwich to bring them up to date on our broadband initiative activities.
 3. Received emails from the new reps from Madison, Mary Cronin and Sloane Jarell-Alt. – Both are Librarians.
 4. Rick, Steve and Becky met with the Governor Wentworth Regional School District on October 7th at their request to inform them of our initiative.
- Assignment – Co-Chair Knox mentioned that he had met with David Smolen at the Conway Public Library regarding their future concern & needs for internet access and speed. He also asked all present to find out specifics of internet access of town government, libraries and schools in their respective Towns.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Grant updates – Carole Monroe above
- Participating parties to date – Co-Chair Knox mentioned that we have 17 of 18 towns, 1 unincorporated town, MWVEC, NCC, LRPC, WEDCO, County, Carroll County Delegation, NH State Senator Jeb Bradley, US Congressional – total 26 of 27 representatives to CC Broadband possible to date.
- Assignment – Co-Chair Knox mentioned that he had met with David Smolen at the Conway Public Library regarding their future concern & needs for internet access and speed at the September 18th meeting. He also asked all present to find out specifics of internet access of town government, libraries and schools in their respective Towns. – in process.
- Legislative hurdles – discussion about possible legislative activity and NH Rep. Jerry Knirk was going to touch base with NH State Senator Jeb Bradley. NH State Senator Deitch is working on legislation regarding a broadband district. NH Rep Knirk is working on the following:
 - Also SB 170 in 2018 and getting information from Town providers in a timely manner and not being ignored by some providers.
 - And the E-911 info that we need is just to find out what parcels/lots of land have been assigned an E911 street number and if they are a business, resident or empty lot in each town. We do not need to know any personal owner information.
 - The last item discussed is the make ready rules as the utilities take their time making room available for other access to the poles in each town.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Co-Chairman Hiland asked those present if they would be interested in receiving a presentation from the President and COO of GWI from Maine at the November meeting. Rick, Steve and Carole met with them and found their presentation very worthwhile. Discussion ensued regarding meeting with other ISP providers in fairness and it was agreed that if the committee wished to do that we can at future meetings. It was agreed to hear from GWI at a November meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEXT MEETING: At the call of the Co-Chairmen – probably sometime middle of November.

ADJOURNMENT: Co-Chair Hiland thank all for attending and called the meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Acting Clerks
Rick & Steve

Rick Hiland – Co-Chairman 447-4833 r.hiland@myfairpoint.net
Steve Knox - Co-Chairman 447-2887 s_knox@roadrunner.com
Ken Robichaud – Clerk 539-7751 krobichaud@carrollcountynh.net

See attachments #1 & #2

ATTACHMENT #1

Rural Community Development Initiative, USDA Grant

CTC Technology & Energy (CTC) and its consultants, Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI) and ValleyNet, have been awarded a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant from the USDA to provide technical and financial consulting assistance to low-income rural communities in Maryland, New Hampshire, and Arkansas. The collective goal of the applicant team is to develop high-quality, early-stage technical and financial guidance to enable these rural communities to develop successful strategic approaches to improving residents' access to affordable, resilient broadband services. Ultimately, those broadband services will support the communities' economic development, as well as access to educational opportunities and telehealth. The grant is for \$250,000 with an additional \$250,000 of match funding from CTC Technology and Energy and its consultants, Rural Innovation Strategies and ValleyNet, Inc.

CTC, RISI, and ValleyNet will provide technical and financial assistance aligned with their skill sets and experience. Together, we will take a methodical approach to gathering the data and insight needed to develop long-term community broadband strategies—and to preparing strategic plans that are both tailored to the recipient communities and, to the extent they reflect lessons learned and best practices, widely applicable to low-income rural communities nationwide.

The selected recipient communities for this assistance are Pine Bluffs, Arkansas; Garrett County, Maryland; North Country Council, Littleton, NH for Carroll County Broadband; Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, Lebanon, NH; Readsboro, VT and Roxbury, VT.

In brief summary, the scope of work includes the following:

- **Assist recipient organizations with identifying and engaging key stakeholders and non-physical assets:** Communities are more likely to leverage Broadband's value and create a sustainable plan when it is integrated into a broader community development vision. To that end, a critical first step is to engage key stakeholders from a variety of sectors (e.g., institutional partners like land-grant universities, community foundations, and local business organizations) and identify resources and non-physical assets that can be leveraged to develop and support a long-range economic development strategy for the community.
- **Educate community leaders:** While many rural community leaders understand that e-connectivity is critical, there is still a gap in understanding the technical, financial, and policy aspects of planning and executing a sustainable broadband strategy. A key part of building the capacity of local leaders will be educating them on these important considerations as well as the feasibility of different models, and lessons learned from other rural communities.
- **Assess the recipient communities' current broadband infrastructure (assets) and market (services):** Drawing on the recipient communities' data (or, to the extent feasible, developing our own high-level data), we will seek to identify current broadband use among the recipient communities' residents and businesses—as well as a general overview of available services (and, by extension, an understanding of the locations of the recipient communities' unserved and underserved areas).

ATTACHMENT #2

October 17, 2019

From Carole Monroe:

Information Needs for Feasibility and Planning

Town Information:

- 1) Miles of Road – this allows us to estimate miles of network
- 2) Number of premises
 - a. Single Family
 - i. Seasonal or FT (Where does the tax bill go?)
 - b. Multi-tenant buildings and number of units
 - c. Businesses
 - d. Municipal
 - e. Community Anchor Institutions
- 3) GIS Locations of premises
- 4) Number of Households
- 5) Population
- 6) Median Income
- 7) Current Providers
- 8) Results of an RFI for number of premises served at greater than the FCC definition of broadband, 25 Mbps down/3 Mbps up.
- 9) Cable access by premise or by road

Regional Information:

- 1) Current pole owners – Electric Companies, Landline Telephone Companies by town
- 2) Access to e911 data?

Other:

- 1) Real Estate time on the market, as a result of lack of sufficient broadband
- 2) Home businesses or work-from-home employees
- 3) Broadband Survey data available
- 4) FirstLight Fiber Network