

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Taylor/Van Brocklin Building

Members Present: Doug Smith, Chair, Rick Flagler, Maryann Lauretti, Wendy O'Brien, Ron Raymond, and Jonathan Schreckengost.

Guests: Henry Underwood, Southwest Regional Planning Commission

The meeting was brought to order at 7:03 p.m. by Doug Smith, Chair.

Grant Opportunities: Doug asked Henry Underwood what grant opportunities are available to help reduce amount of the bond needed by the Town. Henry noted that there is the Rural Development Reconnect program through the USDA. However, due to the high level of submission and reporting requirements, the grant is best suited for providers looking to serve a community. He mentioned several programs that will be available in the future, including one from the NH Business and Economics Affairs Division as well as the federal infrastructure program.

Community Survey: The Committee members reviewed the second draft of the survey with Henry. Henry explained how Survey Monkey worked regarding required and optional questions, adding that he can produce Excel reports and PowerPoint slides based on the survey data. Jonathan Schreckengost made a motion to accept the survey as revised. Rick Flagler seconded the motion and it passed.

The Committee members discussed having the survey URL information available at Town Meeting in a card form that can be picked up by residents. In addition, members hope to have the Selectmen mention the survey at Town Meeting. Wendy O'Brien will meet with the Selectmen to obtain permission to have the survey URL cards available and ask them to mention the survey during the meeting.

Recommendations: Henry had several recommendations for the Committee, noting that ongoing communication with the Selectmen is very important. He also recommended referring to the *Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide* which has a section on the RFP process. He also suggested contacting area towns that have been through the process. **Agenda:** Doug discussed the need for an agenda for Committee meetings. Maryann Lauretti made a motion to create an agenda for the meetings. Ron Raymond seconded the motion and it passed.

Facebook Page: Committee members discussed whether to put the meeting agenda on Facebook. Ron agreed to post a short note about the Committee's work on the RFI and the upcoming survey. Ron and Doug will work on the page together.

Minutes: Maryann made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Doug and passed.

Next Meeting Date: March 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Taylor/Van Brocklin Building.

Adjournment: Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy O'Brien, Secretary