**01 March 2019**

Location: Penobscot Town Hall

In Attendance – Butler Smythe, Jonahan Albrecht, Henry Teverow, Phil Bowcat, Bob Publicover

Opening Remarks – 1) No agenda this time but up front addressed next meeting and location in Brooklin.

2) Support for State Broadband Appropriations – try to get them in before the hearings.

3) Neighborly presentations – Not sure who participated but the last was very worthwhile.

4) NTIA presentation participation? Last one on Broadband was not very good but raised the issue of Bad Data out there and the data out there (i.e. how many people use tablets, etc.) is not of value to solving real problems.

**Agenda**

Couple Items to discuss.

1. Town Updates –
   1. Brooklin – No rep.
   2. Blue Hill – Plan is to get “report complete by the end of this month (March) – not much work on that lately. Support inputs as “NTIA Partners with 8 States on Improvements to Broadband Availability Map.” Waiting post Town Meeting to start further communication with Selectmen.
      1. Butler is going to add a tab to the ConnectME spreadsheet to address missing roads (specifically those with Spectrum on them) to address that not everyone on those missing roads has any service at all. Not addressing specific service levels, but how misleading the spreadsheet really is.
      2. Brooke is OK with getting that level of info, as this is just a start. A short Word document will clarify the inputs.
   3. Penobscot – Working town Warrant of $10,000 for Tech Fund and $90,000 additional request may be added by Selectmen using surplus town funds to get the program started. Near term, working community buy-in by asking for connection costs up front based on costs presented in Axiom report (but assumed to not be accurate). Would refine later.
   4. Stonington – No action on moving forward after Axiom report and town meetings. Cost is a key factor and getting a coordinated effort between towns makes more financial sense based on town’s analysis.
   5. Brooksville – No rep.
   6. Sedgwick – All quiet on Broadband efforts. Interest is focused on other problem areas that could impact support for the project.
   7. Deer Isle – *(from Jim Fisher)* Deer Isle held first of a series of digital literacy classes hosted by the Deer Isle Library and featuring Jim Campbell. This was part of our MCF grant proposal.

Deer Isle Committee met to discuss options for implementing planning element of MCF grant. The committee reviewed offers from Vetro Fiber Map and Neo Partners. These companies suggest that they can produce usable results quickly and at lower cost.

The Deer Isle Committee, Deer Isle Selectboard and PUB discussed *(Butler comment - this was not a group meeting with PUB involved…)* whether it makes sense to use MCF funds for a regional study given the added efficiencies of scale. Questions remain about the adequacy of financial data coming from these GIS based analytic systems and whether a consultant is required for ground truthing information.

* 1. Castine - None

1. ConnectMe Data Collection/Verification
   1. This effort is valuable as a means of clarifying how much error or missing information is on the current spreadsheet. (see brief comments in 1.b.i. above.) Getting this to Brooke in March would be beneficial.
2. Letters to Committees for Broadband Related Bills: “Testifying” – on time is best….
3. Neighborly Broadband – Impressions, etc.
   1. Observation - Not everyone signed up has participated. Last one was best and worth reviewing and discussing as it applies to PUB.

**OTHERS**

1. Next Meeting – 0800 5 April, Location: Brooklin Town Hall.