**06 September 2019**

Location: Sedgwick Town Hall

Attendees: Butler Smythe, Jim Fisher, Phil Glaser, Doug Cowan, Kathleen Billings, Stephenie MacLagan, Robert Publicover, Henry Teverow, Joel Katz, Ben Astbury

Open Actions

1. Update - Treo Data - Pioneer Data Request.

a. Because of the lack of timely response to this offer from Pioneer, it was agreed that this would limit the Peninsula wide overview desired and without all towns responding it would not work.

2. GWI prep for follow-on (TBD)

a. What is it that we will need to do to support GWI locally – starting with surveys, community meetings, prioritization of road/area buildout, etc. They may have a play but time to start thinking about it.

3. Deer Isle MCF funding reallocation question.

a. Jim Fisher says that MCF can allocate funds for a group effort (i.e. Neo-Partners) if we want to go that direction. No commitment was made.

**Agenda**

1. Town Updates
   1. Blue Hill: Lack of lines for Bonded DSL service and some basic phone service shortages exists which is not good. Aware that this is an issue elsewhere and need to discuss with CCI.
   2. Sedgwick: No activity – other priorities at the moment.
   3. Penobscot: Politics needs to be addressed since state representatives (specifically supporting Penobscot) failed to support even the bill for Broadband funding.
   4. Brooklin: Not present
   5. Brooksville: USDA Submission by GWI for the 4 towns (Sedgwick, Brooklin, Brooksville, Penobscot) should occur soon – they are not going to wait for the answer on Blue Hill. In addition CCI addressed some of the phone line issues in town, which may be a common fix for Blue Hill issues noted above.
   6. Deer Isle: Survey was completed with 53 responses to date (Still online… at <http://www.townofdeerisle.org/broadband>. Tries to address unmet needs.

A variation of the GWI survey.

* 1. Stonington: Long summer…. wifi hotspots are in place for downtown area (funded by the town this year and budgeted that way). Have not had much luck working with Shelly at Spectrum.

1. Neo-Partners – Conversation with Maine West – Mia Purcell
   1. No response from Belfast after several tries via email.
   2. Spoke with Mia Purcell with Maine west in the Bethel area. Mia was supportive of the effort and believed it to be worth the cost. She was turned on to them by Axiom who they had been working with in their area for estimates…. They are going with GWI and their USDA RUS efforts. They have similar issues with town governments not supporting them in some places saying that they are fine – despite the fact that only a small percentage of the population has Spectrum. Trying to show what they do via email is too difficult as you can dive deep down into the information that they provide on their site. They did work with them in answering questions and providing information that they might otherwise have gotten from getting feet on the ground in the area – which they do not do.
   3. She will be at the Maine Broadband Coalition Meeting.
2. Maine Community Foundation (MCF) Grants – 15 October is the deadline.
3. Shortlist of criteria for a peninsula-wide internet system to include as part of a peninsula-wide RFP if needed.
   1. It was agreed that we should develop a separate working group to brainstorm this – doesn’t have to be the PUB folks at the meeting and can be more… dedicated to brainstorming ideas.
   2. Need to get towns to submit or gather names and a separate email will follow to coordinate.
4. Community Connectivity Issues (what specific problems are we seeing?) – Lack of Phone Lines, Communication, expansion (lack of), etc.
   1. Spectrum – long time in the area with little connectivity and no path forward to address the future.
   2. CCI – shortfalls in DSL and phone line shortages
   3. Others – Basic Cell service. Butler to provide email with link to program that shows where service towers are. Service in Stonington still not up for US Cellular or AT&T. Butler noted that his cell connection (home) in Blue Hill was worse than his DSL. (\* Confirmed that connection is to tower in Belfast area – not in Surry.)
5. Maine Broadband Coalition meeting
   1. Community Leaders the first day – signup is available through direct email and was promoted via Tom Groenig’s email supporting the Working Waterfront (Island Institute).

**OTHERS**

1. Next Meeting – 0800 4 October**. Deer Isle Town Hall.**

2. Who is going to the Maine Broadband Coalition meeting?