**PUB MINUTES**

**14 February 2020**

Location: Deer Isle Town Hall

Attendees: Butler Smythe, Jim Fisher, Phil Glaser, Doug Cowan & Joel Katz(online), Hannah Barrows & Emma Wendt (Island Institute), Kathleen Billings, Henry Teverow.

**Agenda**

1. GWI Efforts and next step(s)
2. Neo-Partners Meeting (Area Broadband Study)

**Intro -**

Butler noted that folks might enjoy the recent Waypoints from Island Institute – here is the Link - <http://www.islandinstitute.org/waypoints>. Broadband is specifically addressed as in past issues.

1. GWI Effort. Short overview of Blue Hill and Brooksville meetings with GWI on Wed 12 Feb – was hoping Abbie could do the latter summary but was not in attendance. Specifics of the summary not noted here except that the meetings were quite different, with attendance by USDA rep and two reps for Senators King and Collins at Abbie’s meeting was helpful. Sarah Pebworth was also at both meetings.
   1. Because of a “sequence” issue in the approval process (very simplified issue) at USDA, the Blue Hill and Brooksville (et al.) applications were not approved leaving the area with only the re-connect program as an opportunity that GWI is exploring with a Mid-March due date. Deer Isle/Stonington were not submitted.
      1. 25/3 was the target for the Loan program but 10/1 is the one for Grants ☹ - which is harder to achieve and is the basis of the re-connect effort.
      2. Butler had submitted initial data to GWI on Thursday for them to assess. Others? Unknown.
   2. A concern was raised by Hannah that doing fiber in communities through the re-connect program (small targeted areas) might hamper follow-on programs.
2. Did not get into too much of a Neo Partners discussion but for those who had not looked at the project, they did assess costs for all options and that is available in the spreadsheet provided… Jim is using the tools to play with a Deer Isle related assessment.

LINK: <http://expressoptimizer.net/projects/Blue%20Hill/index.php>

CODE: Blue Hill Access

1. Hannah Barrows offered to bring in Island Institute as a key element of the March Meeting and possible larger community discussions.

**OTHERS**

1. Next Meeting – 0800-1000, Friday 13 March 2020. **Blue Hill** (Specific Location TBD)
2. Island Institute