**9 October 2020**

**Location: Zoom Conference Call**

**Attendees:** Butler Smythe,Robert Publicover, Jim Fisher, , Kathleen Billing, Henry Teverow, Phil Glaser, Doug Cowan, Noel Stookey, Charlie Hopkins, Joe Neff and Eric Marshall

**Overview/Comments:** Shifted to a Deer Isle Zoom number thanks to Jim Fisher. Connected about 15 minutes after the original meeting start of 0800. Adapted via email and a good point to make sure you are emailing (vs. text) to make sure all see if there are any issues and then adapt as needed.

For those that are not aware, Stephenie MacLagan is now the Assistant Director of Connect Maine – Congrats!

**Agenda**

1. Town Updates
   1. Stonington:
      1. Working with CCI to achieve a 10/1 minimum service with CCI DSL. Similar program as Brooklin. Original town vote passed with an original estimate of $150k and a town input of $75k was approved. Subsequently the cost was raised to $230k and a special Town Meeting will be held to increase the town’s cost for the project.
      2. Effort will add some fiber to support additional RT’s and upgrades to existing CO and RT(s). Looking for that work to start in 2021.
      3. Working with Jeff Nevins but an additional name was provided to help support connectivity from other towns. Butler noted he was having a very difficult time getting Jeff to respond. Jeffrey McIver: Jeffrey.mciver@consolidated.com
   2. Blue Hill:
      1. As previously noted, there are issues with two RTs being at as-built capacity. One East Blue Hill resident trying to work from home got an estimate from CCI of $1,100 /Month for 36 months for business fiber – which is considerably more that Jeff Nevins had noted the cost would be to Butler. Her home is 1ithin 100 feet of the fiber on the Morgan Bay Road.
      2. Trying to find a reporter for the Weekly packet that has an interest in this subject as Anne Berleant is no longer with the paper – she was the goto person. Jennifer Osborne lives in Blue Hill working for the Ellsworth American and has reported on the subject just after the last PUB meeting she participated in. Butler noted he had gotten calls and emails after the article and not all were from the Peninsula specifically.
      3. Butler is working with the Blue Hill Public Library to support a presentation on Peninsula Broadband that will be recorded and available after the presentation. 30 minutes of presentation and then questions. Trying to address basic knowledge information and what is going on around the peninsula, etc.
         1. **(UPDATE)** Presentation is CONFIRMED for 4pm on Wednesday 28 October 2020. Signup is required as space on the ZOOM event is limited (98). More clarity on this presentation is available here: <https://bhpl.libcal.com/event/7204149>
      4. GWI trucks have been noted in Blue Hill (others?) and Butler confirmed with GWI that they were getting a head start on assessing poles, etc. – they are being proactive! Butler received several calls and note a truck as well ☺. (Note: It is not specifically associated with Reconnect…)
   3. Isle Au Haut - Charlie Hopkins - working with TDS, waiting for equipment upgrades. Have created an open-ended Broadband Reserve Fund. Service in town is pretty good.
   4. Sedgwick- Bob Publicover and Joe Neff - Difficult to get Spectrum and CCI to meet current needs. Shares Deer Isle concern that they will only respond when a town has funding in hand.
   5. Deer Isle – Three-part project funded by Maine Community Foundation
      1. Regional Study with NeoPartners
      2. Autodesign with Biarria Fonds
      3. Detail design and management system with Vetro
   6. Deer Isle Town Office is not hearing from CCI
   7. Spectrum is extending Coaxial in Deer Isle based on neighborhood initiatives
      1. Extended cable along Reach Road (to Hugh Reynolds) Allan Downs, Charlie Putnam, Dan Sussman and others contracted with Spectrum to extend
      2. Will extend to Pressey Village and Dunham Point Road
2. Broadband Speed Survey:
   1. **(UPDATE)** Talked with Hannah Barrows: Maine Broadband Coalition in conjunction with ConnectME will be getting information out on a speed test “survey” that will begin in early November. They will need our help to get the word out throughout the peninsula, etc. Intent is to ID low capacity areas and help to support the Bond recently approved.
3. Reconnect #2:
   1. Reconnect #2 has not been awarded yet (soon…) and is a USDA grant that would enable GWI to connect to the 3-Ring Binder to facilitate fiber connections for not only the Penobscot/Sedgwick/Brooksville application but others as well. They are hoping for $450k. Butler noted he has gotten a quote from GWI (for the East Blue Hill Road specifically) because there are over 70 homes without any wired service or DSL service well below 10/1. Would need to get some funding from the Maine Broadband Grant program just approved by voters and will be waiting for the application process and qualifications – early in 2021. It would a prime candidate in Blue Hill.
4. Spectrum Town Agreements?:
   1. Spectrum agreement was automatically extended with Deer Isle and Stonington when Spectrum walked away from negotiations.
      1. Other towns may be in the same situation.
   2. Butler was not aware if Blue had signed anything – they have not reported on that anywhere publicly.

Last Month’s Actions – Updates

1. Butler: Reconfirmed. East Blue Hill Area summer resident is being billed for CCI land line and Premium Choice is billing for CCI DSL service at $60/month (more than normal CCI service would be for the same capacity) and no break in service when out of the area. Communicating with ConnectMe to help with the “legality” of this issue - at the very least. Others may have the same “issue.” He should be getting DSL direct from CCI.

**OTHERS**

1. Is there a better day/time/schedule given COVID related schedule conflicts? Still can be discussed.

2. Next Meeting – 0800 Friday 13 November via **Zoom**