**14 August 2020**

**Location: Zoom Conference Call**

**Attendees:** Butler Smythe,Robert Publicover, Hannah Barrows, Phil Glaser, Chris Rector (Senator King’s Office), Jennifer Osborn (Ellsworth American)

Overview/Comments: We had a short meeting that specifically addressed two subjects: Post-Bond Maine Broadband Coalition meeting and PUB area survey.

1. The Tuesday 4:30 pm Zoom Call gave a general overview of the “win” and should be available at the MBC site for those that missed it. It left open one of the key questions I (Butler) had – what really happens next?
	1. Hannah provided that info. prior to the meeting that enabled the information to be passed… The following is summarized.
		1. Formal process will be defined as soon as the grant rulemaking happens. Next grant round not yet established but expecting to know in the next few months - grant rounds possibly starting late this calendar year, or early next.
		2. PUB communities could be working towards getting local buy-in and sparking political will so when funding is available, PUB communities are ready to pursue funding options. Financial and educational problems through a lack of connectivity may resonate…
		3. Engagement in the grant rule-making process is encouraged to ensure your community’s voice is heard.  ConnectMaine holds monthly meetings during the fourth Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12pm and a portion of the meeting is held for public feedback.
			1. *MBC website should have that call-in information*
2. Butler noted that he had gotten Survey inputs back from Union 93 and George Stevens (almost immediately after sending). Information did not use survey format, but it was useful. More specifics when complete, but George Stevens alone had 15 students and 1 Teacher without adequate Broadband. GSA relied on donations for hotspots needed and fielded. Union 93 had similar issues from across their served towns and hotspots were provided for the upcoming year by Maine Department of Education (MDE).
	1. Union 76, Bay School and Harbor School had not responded, and an additional query will be made.
3. Butler addressed a recent letter from a Blue Hill resident about DSL service in the East Blue Hill area and that he’d contacted Jeff Nevins (CCI Rep) to address. As part of the call additional issues were also discussed. A letter to the Blue Hill Selectmen about that call was recommended and Butler agreed to do that summary.
	1. Addendum (for your info) – The following was received from Sarah Pebworth after communicating with her on the subject (she received from CCI):
		1. "With respect to Blue Hill, we have two sites that require augmentation. One is a relatively inexpensive addition, we have issued a job and I expect it will be done in the next few months. With respect to the other,  it is a very costly augmentation and while it is on our radar it is not in our capital plan currently. Unfortunately, this constituents address is in the latter. *(Butler Comment: Note that Jeff Nevin noted in my call with him that he was told internally that the cost was $50,000.)*
		2. With respect to this project in 2021, we have not finalized plans and budgets and I am unsure if this will be funded. If a get more concrete information I will let you know.
		3. Here are the roads served by the remote terminal that we are augmenting.
* Ackley Farm
* Bobolink
* Buoy
* Dry Moon
* Eastwood
* Gus Moore
* Hinckley Ridge
* Masons Hill
* Mesa Farm
* Mountain View
* Pleasant
* Range
* Redwing
* Western County”

1. Jennifer noted that she was working on an article about Broadband and communication with her and letters were welcome and encouraged.
2. Hannah noted that there is a Broadband Survey (Capacity/Speed) being developed that we should be seeing this fall. More details to follow soon.

**Actions** (Butler)

1. Letter to Blue Hill Selectmen re: CCI contact and concerns.
2. Survey summary (to date) to Hannah

**OTHERS**

1. Next Meeting – 0800 11 September via **Zoom**