**Friday, 12 March 2021**

08:00 am

**Location: WEBEX Video Conference Call**

**Attendees:** Butler Smythe,Robert Publicover, Jim Fisher, Doug Cowan, Jerry Wetterskog, Charlie Hopkins, Donna Beninati, Charlie Hopkins, Joel Katz, Bill Cohen, Kathleen Billings, Jennifer Osborne

**Opening Remarks** – Intros

1. Butler had sent out several documents this past month related to some of the discussion today – not all may have gotten but can resend if requested.
2. The Digital Frontiers: Telehealth & Telemedicine call was excellent and directly related to the concerns we have for limited Broadband access today. It’s available online.
3. Town of Sedgwick has formalized and officially supported their Broadband Committee.

**Agenda**

1. **Maine Broadband Coalition Speed Test**
   1. Please get the word out on the Speed Test and if you can – to make them understand its importance in challenging the incorrect FCC Broadband maps. Using GPS location from a WIFI connected phone may be more accurate vs. a typed in address. [www.mainebroadband coalition.org](http://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org/)
2. **FCC Broadband Definition**: Maine and Federal movement to change the definition of Broadband to 100/100!
   1. Maine LD 83 under Energy, Utilities & Tech & Federally Senators King, Portman, Manchin, & Bennett. Maine effort was briefly discussed last meeting but now there’s Senatorial input.
3. The **ConnectMaine Grant Application** Window is OPEN for UNSERVED areas only
   1. Wednesday 10 March was the Applicant Workshop
   2. Some Towns will need to challenge the ConnectMaine Broadband map (FCC Based)
   3. All of the ConnectMaine Grant opportunities will be used by this summer.
4. **CCI RDOF** award…
   1. Some information previously passed and noted in past minutes
   2. But what is CCI going to do in three elements
      1. Searchlight (Investor in CCI) $224 Million investment in Maine
      2. RDOF Areas specifics unknown for now (Know and understand yours)
      3. Town/Communities expansion to all areas
         1. Opportunity for lower cost to obtain Broadband but with a time lag that could be shifted to the left with community involvement in the cost. (2025 at the earliest right now out to 2010)
   3. Some Maine towns (VT/NH as well) have started efforts with CCI that use i. & iii. above, and in some cases other investors – Eastbrook, ME (Hancock County) in particular – with just over 400 residents using local Wind Farm support.
5. GWI **USDA RUS** application for three of the towns is still in flow – no more information but would like to bring GWI in for a separate but related Discussion.
   1. How can we synergize USDA RUS and full development of the area for FTTH?
   2. GWI would like to present opportunities for Broadband in our communities and the need for a separate meeting.
   3. Town Government representation(personal or designated representative) was discussed
   4. Desire for discussion was confirmed and Doug Cowan has the action to coordinate (i.e. the week of 15 March but no later than the week of the 22nd).
   5. “New” larger effort by [www.midcoastinternet.com](http://www.midcoastinternet.com) (10 Towns so far in the Rockland/Camden area).

**Action Items**

* + - 1. Doug Cowan to set up call with GWI at the earliest opportunity.

**Last Month’s Actions** – Updates

1. None

**OTHERS**

1. GWI Meeting – Date and time TBD
2. Next Meeting – 08:00am Friday 12 April 2021 viaWEBEX
   1. **WEBEX** Invite out soon!
      1. Please add link to your Notes, Calendar, etc. Invite should automatically add itself to your Google Calendar or whatever calendar you use. You should annotate your attendance from your calendar’s link.
      2. Butler will have site OPEN 15-30 minutes prior to the 0800 start to work out any connectivity issues.