

## **Center Harbor Broadband Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 20, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** At 4:20 p.m. the meeting began. Harry Viens, Greg Himes, Bernie Volz and Tony Scotto were present.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** The group used this first meeting to discuss and review the Broadband Committee Charge and objectives, shared perspective and information regarding the state of broadband technology, how we would operate as a committee and next steps.

#### **MEETING MINUTES:**

- As this was the first meeting of the Committee, there were no meeting minutes to approve.

**COMMITTEE CHARGE:** A draft of the committee's mission and objectives were discussed. The group offered improvements which were incorporated and the final version follows:

#### **Broadband Committee Charge**

Develop a strategy and master plan (including a proposed solution) for bringing access to reliable, affordable high-speed broad-band service to the Town of Center Harbor. This will include an assessment and comparison of all currently viable broadband options, pricing, availability and reliability and an implementation plan for the option selected.

An ideal proposed solution will:

- Be priced competitively against existing DSL and Breezeline service
- Provide service access to all residences and businesses
- Offer Speeds up to and including 1GB download/upload
- Be Funded by grants or internet service providers
- Utilize state-of-the-art technology that is sustainable over time
- Can be built-out in a reasonable time-frame (approximately 3 years)
- Include an educational initiative on the Town website that provides information around fiber-based broadband and cutting the (cable TV) cord

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Following is a summary of the topics the committee members discussed:

- Fiber-based and satellite-based broadband both represent the next step in broadband technology. We do not believe Breezeline (formerly Atlantic Broadband) has any plans to move their infrastructure to fiber. The Town's cable TV agreement with Breezeline is different and distinct from Breezeline providing broadband service. SpaceX's Starlink internet system, delivered via a constellation of low-orbit satellites is an option for Town residents. Currently the service has a one-time hardware cost of \$599.00 and a \$110.00 monthly fee.
- The New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC) fiber-based broadband initiative is progressing with a focus on Grafton County. Mr. Leo Dwyer was identified as the broadband point person at NHEC who was also instrumental in bringing broadband to Sandwich. The committee agreed that meeting with Mr. Dwyer was an important next step especially to better understand the grant process and how to bring Center Harbor's interest to the attention of NHEC. Mr. Hime will put forth a list of topics the committee would like to discuss with Mr. Dwyer.
- Mr. Volz took on the responsibility to add this committee to the Town's website. This will be the primary means of communication with the citizens of the Town. See <https://www.centerharbornh.org/broadband-committee-0>
- The committee discussed the importance of providing ongoing information to the citizens via the Town website. Fiber-based broadband is one such topic of interest and the separation between cable TV and the topic of "cutting the cable cord" and streaming TV is another topic. While cable TV will continue to be available from Breezeline, as fiber-based broadband becomes more popular (delivering higher speed), we may see an increased interest to drop traditional cable and move to streaming TV.

**OPERATING AS A COMMITTEE:** Greg Hime volunteered to serve as committee chair and Tony Scotto as secretary. A meeting schedule was not yet established, as there was agreement that we would have a better understanding of our approach after meeting with Mr. Dwyer.

**NEXT STEPS:** Mr. Viens will contact Mr. Leo Dwyer to get times when the committee and Mr. Dwyer can meet.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 5:45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Scotto

Secretary