

TOWN OF ORFORD

Broadband Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021

(Meeting in Person with a GoToMeeting link)

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

Committee Members

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Mark Burger, Lisa Camarra, Bob Hedges, Martha Tecca, Charlie Smith, Jeff Thurston, E Schwendler

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Buck, Joe Schwendler

New Business:

- *Adams* gave a report on recent Grafton County broadband meeting results. All information can be found at the Grafton County Broadband website.
<http://www.co.grafton.nh.us/broadband-committee/>
- Grafton County has submitted grant proposals in the hopes of receiving federal and private monies.
- The state has Senate Bill 85 as a possible source for funding.
- Funding through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) in the amount of \$68,000 has been received by the town which can be used within 6 different categories. The Selectboard has not allocated the funds at this time.
- NH Electric Coop's (NHEC) business model includes broadband service within a 6-year timeline to all subscribers in their network. Information can be found at the NHEC website.
https://www.nhec.com/broadband/page/2/?et_blog

Carole Monroe, the CEO of ValleyNet in Royalton, Vermont joined the meeting remotely as an introduction to discuss what ValleyNet could offer. She explained that ValleyNet has served NH & VT since the early 2000s and currently runs the networks for Lyme Fiber, ECFiber and GWI in Maine. ValleyNet brings local management of contractors, knowledge of financing, and universal access in NH & VT is their mission. Lyme Fiber has expressed an interest in participating with Orford because some lines go through Orford.

- ECFiber built Lyme's network for \$30k a mile, the southern VT network for \$35k per mile and now \$40k is being quoted mostly because of anticipated personnel and equipment costs.
- *Adams* advised that there are 42 miles of road in Orford but the number of premises are harder to quantify as Orford's property cards aren't held electronically.
- Joe and Elizabeth Schwendler, their son Daniel, and Martha Tecca developed a graphic representation of the Orford broadband survey results. Information on the survey can be found at https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HTfChbTkt_dJUffxtld-fJYOaPWtQ_I/edit#slide=id.p1
It is important to note that the number of people in Orford responding to the survey was high, so the committee thanks everyone who responded!
- NH 911 shares information on address and GPS locations with towns who ask for it. *Adams moved to nominate Schwendler to contact 911 for mapping information, seconded by Burger.*
- *Adams* will call Leo Dywer who is affiliated with the NHEC's broadband initiative.

C Smith will follow up on the Topsham RFI pertaining to a list of service addresses or some other definition of service area.

Tecca will contact Carina Park and Bridgitte Coding from the Grafton County broadband initiative as well as Carole Monroe to see if they would be able to share completed business plan and feasibility study templates with the committee.

The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Camarra