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Broadband/Fiber Committee

Committee Cliff Norton / Jim Howell / Diane Smith members:

Date: | July 11 meeting

Re:

6th meeting

Discussion:

- Meeting led by Elaine Abbott, SCEC, who showed a map that she is working on with Fidium for service through many communities (see below).
- We expressed support for this project and as we get closer to a regional meeting will discuss with Selectman.
- Reviewed results of survey actual numbers were pretty low, only 38 responded.

Action items: July 11 – actions

- 1. Develop method to test existing internet service through out town -Cliff had good idea to select specific points through the corridor.
- 2. Email balance of ISPs to see if any further actions expected in light of money granted to State.

May 3 -- actions

- 1. Work with Elaine to complete survey and determine dates.
- 2. Decided on where printed copies would be distributed and where they could be returned.

Mar 21 - actions

- 1. Set up meeting with Selectman.
- 2. Add business questions to survey.
- 3. Ask about monies from Selectman for potential advertising for survey.

Next meeting:

TBD

Email from Elaine Abbott dated July 5.

I am the Regional Broadband Coordinator with Sunrise County Economic Council and I am reaching out to all of your communities in the hopes of bringing high speed internet to your residents.

Maine has just been awarded \$272M in BEAD funding to reach ALL of Maine's unserved homes and businesses. I am working with other communities in Washington County as well and unserved communities (speeds 25/3 or less) are being offered assistance for a fiber build to every home and business that wants it at no cost to the community due to the federal grant funding available.

It's my hope that we can plan a regional meeting to meet with Fidium Fiber later this month or early August so the communities may hear what is being offered. In order for your community to be included in the grant application, a letter of support would be required by Maine Connectivity Authority.

This truly is a once in a generation opportunity and I don't want to see your communities left behind.

Please reach out to me if your community has interest so that I may start to organize a regional meeting.

Below is a map of the region I am proposing:

