

Winchester Broadband Committee

February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The Winchester Broadband Committee met on February 28, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Winchester Town Hall and via Zoom.

Attendees: Jim Hochstetter, John Grimmer, Dave Lull, Gary Engstrom, Nicholas Newton, Nancy Johnson. Guest: Richard Logan

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 by Jim Hochstetter.
2. Richard Logan introduced himself as a candidate for County Supervisor.
3. Gary moved to approve previous meeting minutes from 1/20 and 1/28, seconded by Dave. Motion carried
4. Discussed email from PSC. Official certificate for Telecommuter Forward will take 45 days. There was a logo included with the email that will be used on the town broadband website once its up along with using it on surveys or any communication coming from the committee.
5. Nicolas reviewed his work on mapping current state of internet coverage in Winchester. He started with responses to the Vilas County survey data. Next steps are to get our own survey data along with information from Lumen on where there is current copper "in the ground". Jim also mentioned that he attended a PSC webinar on their current mapping based on responses from current ISPs. This shows their own definition of "underserved" which indicates a much smaller number of homes. We will need to determine if we go with this data as our target or make a case for a larger audience. Our future survey data will be key to this. Nicolas and John will also be working together using town databases to create a better map of households.  
  
Dave mentioned that he will be attending a webinar conducted by Calix addressing their view on how to apply for a grant.
6. Regarding the recent press release about Oneida County direction on broadband is good information to keep in mind but does not impact our efforts as Vilas County has not adopted the same direction.
7. Items to be added to an overall communication plan:
  - a. Website needs to get up and running
  - b. Press release post website launch announcing effort and TeleCommuter Forward
  - c. Possible mention/interview on Channel 12 with town board member
  - d. Survey created and mailed to property owners
8. Jim will try to get a contact at Ascension to add to Stakeholders list. At some point we will need letters of support from all stakeholders to be included in grant.

9. Regarding progress on broadband grant application, Gary has been keeping track of information that will be added to the application but has not input it to the document. Once the info is updated, we need to send to Lumen for their updates and to show our efforts are serious.
10. Next meeting date: March 23 10AM.
11. Meeting adjourned at 11:03.

Submitted by Nancy Johnson, Committee Secretary