

Broadband Committee Minutes
June 15, 2022

Attending via Zoom: Carol Miller, consultant National Collaborative for Digital Equity

Nancy Martland, Doug Evelyn, Margo Connors, Jordan Applewhite,
Jodi Wilson, Sugar Hill resident, guest
Leo Dwyer and Bill Darcy, NH Electric COOP.

New Hampshire Electric Coop Presentation (NHEC):

NHEC presentation described their plans for broadband expansion. NHEC is a Cooperative Electric Company managed by it's members. NHEC has committed to bring fiber for broadband to the premise in their service catchment area. NHEC provides electric service to 118 towns in Grafton, Carroll, Belknap and Coos Counties. Of the 118 towns there is a combination of 90 plus towns that are partially served. They serve about 1/3 of Sugar Hill for a total of 128 meters which will be build over the next 18 months.

They will be applying for the \$50 million single applicant RFP posted by the NH Broadband Office at the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs to serve as many under served households as possible and have asked for a letter of support from the town Select Board.

NHEC is interested in serving the rest of Sugar Hill and is looking also to apply for an NTIA Middle Mile Expansion Grant that would build a fiber backbone to the service towns. They are interested in exploring how Sugar Hill might be able to share in the cost to non-members. They also have access to funding sources because of their non-profit status and will pursue all possible resources.

In other business, the Sugar Hill Broadband Committee would like a presentation by Consolidated Communications and Spectrum to see what other options exist for expansion. A discussion ensued to change the regular scheduled monthly meeting to a date that works for all. It was decided that we would meet on July 6th at the regular time. Consolidated will be scheduled for July 6th at 5pm. Spectrum will be scheduled for August.

Aesthetics Update:

Carol Miller is waiting to hear back from her contact at DOT about protecting the viewshed from obstructive wires along Route 117.