

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2023

Attending via Teams: Carol Miller - consultant, Doug Evelyn, Tim Egan, Michael Morley, Margo Connors

Plans for September 20, 2023 Broadband Open House:

Location - Sugar Hill Meeting House from 6 to 7:30

Attending - NH Electric COOP, Spectrum, Consolidated Communications

Purpose - Give community members an opportunity to meet with vendors to ask questions and glean information about broadband connections and installation to their homes.

Publicity - Sugar Hill town newsletter, Facebook, Franconia town sites, Easton town sites, elementary and high school newsletters, sandwich board outside Meeting House a few days before the event.

The BB Committee will provide a quick introduction at the start of the Open House. Doug Evelyn brought up the fact that the community should know that we did the research to bring vendors to the town to provide broadband for everyone. The Committee did not negotiate with vendors or provide funding.

The BB Committee will meet again on September 6, 2023 at 6 pm via Teams to review potential questions for vendors and finalize planning. Carol will develop some questions and share with committee via email to get a head start on the process

Carol will send a report of all of her work on broadband with the town of Sugar Hill in the next month. Committee will stay intact to provide communication between vendors, the town and community members. Committee will follow timelines on construction, promises made, devices and access to training e.g. the Affordable Connectivity Program. Carol will flag potential areas of concern in her final report.

Doug Evelyn brought up the fact that some households have buried lines. How would new fiber be connected? Would those houses have to negotiate separately for buried conduit? If a person who currently has cable decides down the road to switch to fiber will they have to negotiate separately with the vendor? No one has to change service providers.

The Planning Board should work with any new developer to ensure that if utility lines are buried that additional conduit is laid to provide space for any new wires.

If new electric poles are installed, the old ones should be removed in a timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Margo Connors