Bourne Cable, Internet and Telecommunications Advisory Committee
Minutes
Date: 3/21/2024   Time: 0805   Location: Zoom
      Zoom Meeting ID: 815 8788 2013
      Zoom Meeting Password: CABLE
The Zoom chat will not be monitored. Participants who wish to speak must raise the hand icon
until the Chair asks them to unmute. If anyone is audio or visual recording, please acknowledge it
at this time.

1) Call Meeting to Order, and Attendance: **Present:** Mr. Contrino, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Frank, Ms. Howland, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McCarter, Ms. Siroonian, *ex officio,* BCTV **Absent**: None.

2) **Review and Approval of Minutes as amended from 3/7 and 3/14 meetings, Mr. Contrino recused; moved and seconded, approved as amended for formatting.**

Note that all meetings are recorded and can be accessed in full from BCTV.

3) **Review Public Correspondence**

4) **Old and Ongoing Business:**
   a. Digital Equity Plan Report:

       i. Review of Select Board discussion (3/19) of Comments Letter: This was approved by the Select Board and forwarded to the Cape Cod Commission for feedback; will request a followup meeting with the Select Board when received. Any responses received should be forwarded to the Select Board.

       ii. Implementation Recommendations, and way(s) forward: Pending replies, feedback

   b. Funding Opportunities Subcommittee: Mr. McCarter

       i. Gap Round 2: for municipalities

           1. This should help get extensions of public WiFi outside public buildings, e.g., Library, Town Hall, schools. Library trustees have already expressed interest in this and asked for help writing the grant for it.

           2. Contingent on MBI clarification; MBI is still finalizing work on Round 1 so dates are fluid

           3. Currently requires a 20% match. As Town does not have any present debt for broadband, it doesn't qualify for a waiver as presently written.

           4. Recommend that Town request waiver for co-funding requirement and apply for this grant. If MBI grants waiver, we can proceed.

           5. As this grant will involve considerable funds, recommend that the Town add a term position for the life of the grant to administer it and decrease administrative burden on present Town staff.

           6. This would be a capital outlay agenda item. Would require need/benefit explanation to Town Meeting.

       ii. Muni Fiber Grant, $250,000

           1. Grant requires an online application; Mr. Dwyer will make himself available to assist Town personnel in completing it. This is "money on a platter" so would be worth the time involved. Eligible for co-funding vis BEAD grant.

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2. Deadline for filing is April 12 Project to connect municipal facilities, such as Town departments, public safety, library, ISWM, etc.

3. Mr. McCarter will assemble maps and application

4. CITAC will request an extension for the application deadline because the Select Board cannot accommodate time for a discussion and decision on whether to proceed in their upcoming agendas.

   iii. DEI Grant, $100,000

1. This is a follow-on grant after the Cape Cod Commission report on DEI; much of the language in the current draft report will be useful.

2. No timeline known for release of grants from MBI

3. Library trustees are very interested in this for ChromeBooks, portable hotspots, improved WiFi outside the buildings.

4. Regional grants vs. individual town applications. Application is due by May 31, must be submitted to MBI by Cape Cod Commission on behalf of the Town(s). Administration will be by the Assistant Town Administrator or designee.

5. We will put together steps and elements for the grant proposal including a letter of interest from the library) in the future.

   iv. Public Housing Grant (Ms. Siroonian recused from this portion of the discussion)

1. Requirements: Buildings must not already have fiber, be composed of state/federally-funded affordable housing, mixed-income in qualified area, more than 50% of residents qualified

2. Mr. Dwyer and Mr. McCarter will coordinate/supply the information needed to apply

c. Public Outreach Opportunities Subcommittee: Tabled until next meeting

d. Cost Quest License Data Subcommittee

   i. Password set for committee: done

   ii. Try to open and review MBI and CCC data: done

e. Respond to SB Concerns from Presentation and discussion of upcoming opportunities: no response forthcoming from Select Board; pending their future agenda availability after May.

f. Liaison with CC Tech Council

   i. Meeting of Broadband subcommittee on Mar. 13th: Consisted mainly of Boundless presentation for their plans and goals for regional fiber network, beginning with Falmouth; consideration of Eversource microgrid for Outer Cape, no infrastructure there presently.

   ii. Meeting of Infrastructure Committee on Mar. 20th, incl. presentation by Boundless

      1. To-The-Consumer subsidiary of Tilson, a nationwide business company

g. Liaison with other Towns:

   i. Falmouth: Update on proposal from Boundless/Tilson and others

    ii. Boundless proposes plans to get Falmouth up and running 100% fiber in 18 months, entire Cape 18 months after that.

        a. Funding sources TBD; team with town/towns to obtain funding from grants for initial outlays

        b. Unclear who would take over the business after the initial funding is recouped; Falmouth citizens' group wants to be sure Town gets control and right of first refusal for that, not see the whole thing sold to another ISP, e.g., Verizon or Comcast.

    iii. Have received other proposals from private groups: these would require significant Town investment, a barrier. Discussions continuing with vendors, Select Board, and representatives from FalmouthNet and the MLP.

  h. Liaison with Legislators and Staff, POC for new Bridge Fiber Infrastructure: no updtaes. MA DOT meeting April 9; Ms. Siroonian wil ask about utilities attached to new bridge(s) (exception: natural gas)

5) New Business:

  a. Comcast announcement about immediate increases in upload/download speeds, mailers received by many customers:

    i. Likely an internal upgrade, not an improvement in physical network

    ii. No indications of new nodes being deployed, so congestion will result in decreased speeds resuming in tourist season; in metropolitan areas, there are about 250 customers per node, but on Cape it, it's about 2000 customers per node

    iii. Speed tests will still show slow fails; needs major upgrade to deliver sustained better service.

    iv. Pending Gap grants; they might get some to upgrade, but a real upgrade will require fiber

6) Next Meeting & Future Agenda Items. Next meeting: April 4, 2024, via Zoom

Future Agenda Items: Followup on above items as indicated

Adjourn Regular Session, moved and seconded, passed unanimously, adjourned @ 0955.
Wendie Howland, Clerk