

Bourne Cable, Internet and Telecommunications Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date: March 7, 2024

Time: 0800

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. Dwyer, Mr. Frank, Ms. Howland, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McCarter, Ms. Siroonian (for 30 minutes), *ex officio*; Public: Jen McGrail, BCTV. **Absent:** Mr. Contrino
- 2) **Review and Approval of Minutes as amended from 2/08 and 2/22 meetings, moved and seconded, approved.** Note that all meetings are recorded and can be accessed in full from BCTV.
- 3) Review Public Correspondence: According to Ms. Siroonian, "public comments" can only be discussed under this heading if it was received via the Town website comment section. None have been received from that source. Further discussion and clarification about informal comments, e.g., on the Bourne FaceBook group to be added to agenda for next meeting.
- 4) Old and Ongoing business and associated Discussion/follow-on actions, including:
 - a. Funding opportunities subcommittee
 - i. Gap round 2: Application is due 3/27.
 1. Mr. McCarter reports that we are still awaiting clarification from MBI regarding our request for a grant waiver for DEI Round 1. If they approve a co-funding waiver, this would be advantageous to the Town. No Town entity is willing to apply for these funds at present; whether Town would be willing to sign on a grant application if there were no financial obligation and whether MBI would accept an application waiving the debt obligation is still an open question.
 2. Who got the Gap 1 Grants? Knowing this would help clarify recipient plans.
 - ii. Municipal Fiber Grant:
 1. Mr. McCarter reports that the application period ends on April 12. The last grant of \$250,000 originally planned for upgrading Pocasset was redirected to OpenCape for Buzzards Bay. Could be eligible for cofunding from BEAD grant funds of up to \$1 million.
 2. This one would be earmarked for Monument Beach, Pocasset, Barlow's Landing Road to the beach, and COA housing.
 3. Bourne Fire Dept: If service at Barlow's Landing Road, might go to Julius Kelly Dr., Valley Farms Thrift Shop, Bourne Water Department. If to Monument Beach, discussion around where service could extend; fiber is already laid at Shore and Beach intersection, could serve a BFD station there.
 - b. Public Outreach Opportunities Subcommittee
 - i. Media outreach review and approval

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1. Request for input from Bourne FaceBook group re cost increases for home broadband service: No changes noted in Buzzards Bay, some customers changing to Verizon FWA. Requests to continue.
 2. Mr. McCarter will ask Sen. Markey's aide Mark Lannigan for assistance with obtaining public comment and public information efforts.
- c. CostQuest License Data Subcommittee:
- i. Password set for committee: Access has been granted
 - ii. Try to open and review MBI and CCC data. Mr. Johnson reports that there are three sets of data pertaining to broadband service on Cape:
 1. CostQuest, with ISP reports of universal coverage
 2. Ookla speed testing from MBI (old data; 13 months, 12/2021-12/2022): showing about 95% of customers at >25/3; 80% at 100/20. Note that New Bedford had so many test reports from school ChromeBooks that they averaged all data, and did not have any summer usage captured at all. Action item: Request current data;
 3. Cape Cod Commission speed tests, all commercial data; indicate service in Buzzards Bay at X/100, Pocasset/Cataumet at X/15.
 4. Still need to get ALL of Cape Cod declared underserved; note that 1/3 of Bourne residents indicate they have difficulty in paying for broadband services (even if available). These bolster the case for upgrades here.
 5. Cape legislative delegation needs apply political pressure in a way that will be more meaningful than complaints from individual towns. Cyr and Fernandez are on the MA legislative committee for technology. CITAC members will attend next Cape Cod Tech council meeting (e., below) to put this together; email sent to them to get on the agenda
- d. Response to Select Board Concerns from truncated CITAC quarterly report presentation
- i. Ms. Siroonian states she has pushed to get the CITAC report on the SB agenda soon. Reportedly their agendas are already set through MAY. The SB chair allows that she might be able to squeeze it in somewhere.
 - ii. We emphasize that CITAC can put together the secretarial application work if there is no obligation for Town financial involvement. Grant application(s) could include line items for legal, technological, and secretarial support if needed. Priority would be municipal fiber grant as found in Gap 2.
- e. Liaison with Cape Cod Tech Council: Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Johnson will attend 3/13/2024 meeting.
- f. Liaison with other Towns:
- i. Falmouth has an offer from a private entity to build and implement a 100% fiber network to all of Falmouth within 18 months; no town financial obligation, company would seek funding from BEAD and Gap grants.
 - ii. Will have 40% of positions on MLP board open
 - iii. FalmouthNet favors a private network, if contract can protect Town and have some profit go to town. Discussions ongoing.
 - iv. Fernandez can earmark some funds via budget bill

- g. Liaison with legislators and staffers: As noted above.
- h. POC for new Bridge fiber infrastructure: Nothing from Mark Lanigan or Army Corps of Engineers yet.

Next Meeting Date 3/21/2024 , via Zoom

Future Agenda Items: Followup on above items as indicated

Adjourn Regular Session, moved and seconded, passed unanimously, adjourned @ 0911.
Wendie Howland, Clerk

Attachments:

