

Minutes for the Cornish Broadband Committee 5:30 PM 8/26/24 Meeting - draft

Location: Cornish Town Offices 488 Townhouse Rd. Cornish, NH 03745

Attendance:

In person: Mike Fuerst, Shelley Brookings, Kevin Noble, Jason Bourne, Jessica Butel, Steve Jameson, and Peter Martin- Town of Plainfield broadband representative

Absent: Corey Stevens

Community members: Dan Lloyd and Curt Wyman

Via Google Meet Michael Mateja and Andrea Vient from HUB66

The meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

While waiting to connect via Google Meet with Michael Mateja and Andrea Vient from HUB66 Mike shared that he has not been able to connect with a representative from the COOP to find out their plans on connecting the homes they were approved to bring broadband to through the initial ARPA grant proposal.

Soon Michael Mateja and Andrea Vient joined our group via Google Meet allowing us to have much discussion and our questions answered to bring us up-to-speed on the HUB66 grant progress, what we can expect from them and what they need from us to start to bring their Broadband fiber to Cornish and Plainfield.

Andrea informed us that Governor Sununu/Executive Council should be signing the accepted grant proposal this Friday, Aug 30th so that HUB66 can begin the legwork to bring high speed fiber to our towns.

Initially they will need to obtain pole licensing and then will begin the needed engineering pre-work before they can start running the fiber. Most of the poles are owned by Eversource so they do not foresee a problem obtaining licensing. If poles need to be replaced, HUB66 expects to start that work after the snow melts in the spring. The pre-work will take a few months but they believe that within 12 to 15 months those properties listed in the initial grant proposal should be able to be connected to the HUB66 network. Once those initial homes are connected, Hubb 66 will continue connecting all other qualified properties with their expectation that 100% of Cornish and Plainfield unserved and under-served properties will have the option of connecting to the HUB66 high-speed fiber network. It is HUB66's intent to run fiber throughout the towns. Once Andrea receives the final grant approved property list, she will send it along to both towns so that we can see who is on the list.

The Hubb 66 network offers speeds of 1G to 8G. They have multiple pricing options and will be able to offer some financial assistance to qualified customers, including a lower cost lower speed option.

The buildout will be constructed in phases but the ability to connect to the network will not dependent on the whole town being wired. Once fiber is available to a group of properties, these will be offered the ability to connect to the network. They try to do 300-600 poles at a time then connect customers.

The initial buildouts will probably start near the rack site location and progress throughout the town until everyone is reached.

HUB66 will bring the first 250 feet of fiber from the pole to a property for free and then charges about \$2 per feet after that. If existing poles or conduit are not available at a property, Hubb 66

will surface bury the fiber. HUB66 will work with individuals financially for driveways longer than 250 feet.

Once the grant is signed, Andrea will create Cornish and Plainfield pages on the HUB66 website so that customers can check out the HUB66 details and options. This page will also allow individuals to “sign-up” to have HUB66 fiber brought to their property. Even though we know it is coming. Andrea encouraged individuals to apply. They will get a “coming soon” message but this will allow them to be in the system. There are several towns already in their system, such as Bristol, NH, so individuals can look at those to see what we can expect.

Once we find out that our town pages are on the HUB66 website, we will put a note in Connect Cornish and Peter will let the Plainfield authorities know so that individuals can check out those pages.

We also discussed what HUB66 needs from us.

We were told that they need individual rack site locations from both towns along Rt 120 because the main substation comes out of Hanover. Only a small area is needed for them to put their equipment, but the area needs to have electricity, 24/7 access, and if possible, back-up power and AC. If back-up power isn't available, they have back-up batteries in the event of a power outage until power is restored. We felt the fire station in the Flat would be a good location and Jason Bourne will bring this suggestion to the Selectmen tonight. Peter will talk with Plainfield officials. Mike and Peter will let HUB66 know what sites are proposed for our respective towns. Andrea shared that we should never see a fiber network outage because of their built-in redundancy and minimal latency due to the Hanover station being connected with the Plymouth station to the north and Manchester and Boston to the South.

HUB66 asked for town specific pictures for our HUB66 pages so Peter will send some to Andrea and Mike will connect with Mary and Heidi to get some to send to Andrea.

Andrea also shared that for individuals who are interested in getting rid of their landline HUB66 has partnered with Ooma, a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Phone Service that allows for WIFI calling. She also mentioned in the past that they are partnered with Direct TV for television access too. These are separate options that can be added to an individual's contract.

Once we all felt all questions had been answered and the required facts received from Hub 66 Andrea and Michael signed off.

We ended the meeting discussing if we thought we needed another meeting as Steve felt we had met our initial charge requirements. Mike will check into this with the Selectmen but for now, we will wait to schedule another meeting until we see if there is need.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm after approved by Steve and seconded by Jessica.

Minutes submitted by Shelley Brookings