

Washington Broadband Committee

Thursday, August 6, 2020

at the Evening Star Grange, Washington

Present: Sara Bullard (Chair), Will Cassis, Andrew Masters, Sarah Masters, Misty Darton, Will Darton, Patience Eaton, Lee Shane, and Mary Anderson, Town Clerk

Called to Order

Committee members sworn in to duty by Town Clerk at 6:01 pm

Sarah Masters elected Committee Secretary.

Committee Mission established:

“We intend to evaluate the available affordable, equal access, high speed broadband internet options for the town of Washington. Our goal is to have 100% of the town benefit from a high speed internet option.”

Committee Goals:

1. **Define** “high speed”, “affordable”; determine/establish a “reasonable percentage” of town households to be reached with any project and a reasonable time frame for project completion.
2. **Research currently available options.** Communicate with neighboring town representatives, meet with our town’s current service providers’ representative, and independent research from committee members. Municipal internet is favored by the majority of committee members and will be explored.

Satellite, radio, and fiber optic cable were each discussed as to their relative technical limitations re: our town’s specific geography. A patchwork of “a la carte” options may be best based on our hills, valleys, and suspected interference with radio waves from gravel pit operators.

3. **Conduct citizen survey(s).** To determine current service/usage/rates and desired upgrades/services/rates. The survey will be drafted and distributed prior to October 1, tax due day. Surveys will be left at the Town Office, local businesses, mailed, and potentially canvassed.

Once complete, next phases will be determined based on our community’s desires and available options.

Sara Bullard will speak with Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission representative Mary Ellen Barnes to discuss available internet options.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 20 at 6 pm

Presenter Alan Hinsey, Director of Marketing and Sales for Lincolnville Communications (LCI)

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm

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