

#15...Nov 28, 2020

Hello all

Attached is a very fine letter written by a medical professional, Michele Polacsek, who recently moved to Brooksville. I feel that it captures the essence of the problem. Please do read it. If you also wish to send a letter, to Peggy Schaffer, a legislator, or a letter to the editor, please copy me. I'm collecting your comments because at some point we may want to present testimony somewhere, in order to help Brooksville get decent internet service. *[Letter attached available on request]*

I've been discussing with Andrew Butcher of the Maine Broadband Coalition and the Greater Portland Council of Governments (and also a summer Brooksville resident since childhood) the "look but don't touch" problem that Michelle eloquently references in her letter. We've been brainstorming the thought that there should be some legislation that requires companies to offer service to those along the fiber route that they are installing for one private party. Of course equitable cost sharing arrangements should be worked out. If you have thoughts on this subject, please let me know.

No word on the GWI grant yet. I will mention that there seems to be some enthusiasm locally for the star-link satellite system, which is in beta testing for some U.S. locations north of 45 degrees north latitude. No idea when, or if, the beta test will move in our direction. (Brooksville is 44.34 degrees north lat.) The cost per customer (even in the beta test phase) is about \$500 for equipment and \$100 per month. The GWI proposal would be significantly less expensive to the customer. And, in my opinion, fiber technology has the advantage of a track record, being relatively weatherproof, and perhaps less vulnerable to systemwide failure.

If you haven't already, please do that speed test referenced in the last broadband news. Here's the link again: <https://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org/speed-test-info>

Carry on!