

#16...Feb 8, 2021

Midwinter greetings.

There is an article in the Bangor Daily News that quotes Brooksville's own Dr. Cassidy and Clara Parkes. You can read it here, and also answer the accompanying poll.

<https://bangordailynews.com/2021/02/08/business/pandemic-stresses-maines-internet-speeds-adding-extra-risks-for-those-working-from-home/>

It's worth noting that this news article would not have appeared, had we not been able to forward your letters to the reporter, and we would not have known to do so except for the alertness of Brooksville's Barbara Blake-Chapman.

What can you do next? It's still worth doing two things: (1) your speed test, if you haven't already, with the ConnectME website link, and (2) if you haven't done so, send me a letter or an email (like Clara and Dan and others have done), that I can forward to interested and useful persons like legislators, reporters etc. expressing your internet experiences and recommended remedies for the situation. We are still hoping that if we keep beating the drum, eventually someone will hear us.

We still do not have an answer from Consolidated (CCI) about their buildout plan and schedule to bring "gigabit fiber" speeds to the portions of Brooksville that were identified by the FCC as needing improvement. Note, CCI has 6 years to finish the job, they are off the hook for 5% of the locations in the territory they promised to serve, and that territory is far larger than Brooksville. Rumor has it that CCI is focused on New Hampshire, and Maine will lag. There are neighborhoods here that may be entirely left out of their service, in which case we will have to devise an alternative. But until we have their plan in hand, we won't know. We are in limbo, or if you prefer, a "catch 22" situation.

We also do not have an update on the application that GWI has made for serving the parts of Brooksville that aren't in the CCI-awarded territory. (Note: We feel good about the fact that GWI was awarded "B Corporation" status, more info here: <https://bcorporation.net/about-b-corps>)

As soon as anything definitive comes along about either of these projects, I will let you know.

Meanwhile, has anyone receiving this message signed up for Starlink service? Have you received it yet? How is it working for you?