

## #21... May 31, 2021

Greetings! Things are hopping on the broadband front. In no particular order of importance:

1. Brooksville has joined Blue Hill and Penobscot in drafting an RFP for a full-service broadband provider (design, build, operate). It should be released this month. If we are successful in attracting an experienced firm or association of firms to respond to the proposal, and IF we can arrange a financing method (to include maximum use of state and federal funding), we are asking the successful proposer to complete the work by the end of 2023. “The work” is to build symmetrical, 1 gig fiber to the premises throughout the towns, at a reasonable price for all who wish to sign up for the service, i.e. “universal” availability. There’s a lot more to the RFP as you can imagine, but we have been informed by reliable sources that there are at least 3 experienced companies interested in proposing. Deer Isle is also an involved town, although they did not participate in the RFP drafting. We hope Brooklin and Sedgwick will come along with us in this effort. If you have friends in those towns, please ask them to look into it. The more towns that provide part of the customer base, the better deal we are all likely to get, both from the financing entities and from the providers.

2. In anticipation that some of the funding for our project may come from the state agency, ConnectME, we filled out and sent in their mandatory “precertification form”, which describes the composition of the Broadband Committee and answers their mandatory questions. This is available if you wish a copy, and will eventually be posted on our web page.

3. Speaking of “our web page”, we just recently discovered that we have one, on the Town website! Here’s a link to it:

<https://www.brooksvillemaine.org/index.php?sectionID=266&pageID=2600>.

Right now, the only things that are posted there are a report I did in early May, which serves as a summary of work to date, and the full roster of all Broadband Newsletters that you have received up to #20, arranged in reverse chronological order. (This took some digging in my “sent” email to find them all, and I might have missed some.) Committee members Kathy Bonk and Doug Cowan (my co-chairman) are busy re-designing our webpage so that it can include a lot more information. Especially as we move into implementation (hopefully!) we will need to reach out assertively to be sure everyone in Town is informed and has a chance for input. Because we have so much information that you should be able to access, Kathy and Doug may actually need to create a whole ‘nother website, linked to the Town website, as is done by other entities like the Historical Society and the Education Foundation.

4. The same cast of characters (Kathy, Doug, myself) and my husband Mike, also created several drafts of a Broadband piece for the Town Comprehensive Plan. This was gone over with a fine-tooth comb by the Comp Plan committee with excellent improvements, and is about to be posted on the Comp Plan webpage. We will cross-link it with our web page.

5. We’ve designed a survey to follow up on the 2018 survey. This was sent along with your last newsletter, but we have added a question to it. In case you would like to fill it out now and save the Town some mailing \$, the revised Word document is attached. *[was attached to the email]* (I would love to send it out as a “fillable” PDF but I don’t know how to create one of

those.) Formatting doesn't matter to us, so if the format gets messed up in your response, don't worry about it. We have 20 responses in hand so far, and they are all perfectly useable and don't need to be re-done. THANK YOU!

We always look forward to hearing from you.

Abbie, for the  
Brooksville Broadband Committee  
p.s. we now have 301 subscribers to this newsletter!