

#25... July 24, 2021

Hello! Things are progressing on the broadband front!

On Monday, we will mail out a survey to all owners of buildings in Brooksville. This is similar to the survey we did in 2018 but seeks an update. **PLEASE answer the current survey**, because it's the best way we have of gathering your current opinions. Please try to do the speed test, but if you can't do the speed test, please answer the survey anyway. **There is a stamped envelope for your convenience.** (Those of you who already responded online, thank you! If you get a survey in the mail it's our mistake!)

Last Monday we had a short Q&A session with potential responders to the RFP. We reinforced our intent to go forward with review of proposals leading to a selected vendor, hopefully by mid September. We and the vendor will form a partnership to seek the best, most affordable funding options. Ideally, with all the support being offered at the federal and state levels, we can obtain all necessary capital in the form of grants and vendor investments, rather than town debt. (That may be wishful thinking, but we are hopeful.) Several very well qualified companies have said they intend to respond, which is good news.

Blue Hill is starting on a public information campaign. People from Brooksville are welcome to attend the following:

Wednesday, August 4, 2021: 7-8pm at the Blue Hill Public Library

Scott Miller (selectman of Blue Hill) and Butler Smythe (RFP manager) will be there to describe our efforts and answer questions. I plan to go.

We may host a similar session in Brooksville before Labor Day. Let us know if you think it would be beneficial.

In another development, CCI has submitted a proposal to the state agency, ConnectME, which accepted the proposal for inclusion in the State's application for funds from the US Dept of Commerce. There is no assurance that the feds will fund it, so we are not letting that slow down our RFP effort. The proposal covers all 8 towns on the Blue Hill peninsula. We aren't privy to all the details, but it supposedly would build gigabit fiber throughout all the towns.

Your input is always welcome. **PLEASE ANSWER THE SURVEY**, encourage your friends and neighbors to do so, and also use the envelope we provided to send us your comments about why better broadband is important to you!

Onward!