

#26...September 3, 2021

Hello and welcome to all the 156 NEW subscribers (so far) who indicated on their survey form that they would like to be kept informed of broadband developments! The mailing list now stands at 461.

For the new subscribers: this is an opt-out list. You are free to remove your address at any time, no hard feelings. Just send me an email with the email address you want removed, with the subject "remove".

A few of you sent what looks like a different email address than what we already had, so you might get two of these newsletters. If you want to use a preferred address, just let me know which one to keep and which one to remove.

Anyone can also always read these communications on the Town webpage here: <https://www.brooksvillemaine.org/index.php?sectionID=266&pageID=2600> which has additional information and briefings.

The survey responses have been welcome and interesting indeed, with strong support for better broadband. I plan to post some of the specific survey findings over the next few months. Here's the first installment:

Internet Service Provider	Equipped	Satisfied	Satisfied %	Avg. Down	Avg. Up
CCI	165	39	24%	12.20	4.17
AT&T	4	1	25%	25.82	6.89
Premium Choice	8	1	13%	3.56	0.74
HughesNet	14	0	0%	20.98	1.11
Verizon	3	0	0%	3.24	0.49
ViaSat	3	1	33%	0.70	0.42
US Cellular	3	0	0%	0.00	0.00
Unspecified Cellular	9	1	11%	15.63	0.68
None	10	2	20%	0.00	0.00
Other	0	0	N/A	0.00	0.00
Total	219			8.21	1.45

Note the average speed in Brooksville in no way comes close to the minimum acceptable of 25 down, 3 up, let alone the new state standard of 50/10.

Today, Friday Sept. 3, is the date that proposals are due from the companies that have chosen to respond to the four-town RFP that was issued July 9. If you are interested in reading the RFP, you can find it here: <https://www.peninsulautility4broadband.org/rfp.html>. In a nutshell, it asks companies for a proposal to provide fiber-to-the-premises universally throughout the four involved towns, ASAP. The four cooperating towns are Brooksville, Blue Hill, Penobscot and Deer Isle. Each town has a subcommittee dedicated to reviewing the proposals, and their work is about to start. All subcommittee members have signed confidentiality agreements, so that company proprietary information is protected, in case the proposals contain any such

information. The responding companies are all very good ones and we expect a difficult, but rational, decision.

Finally, a long awaited development: Effective September 1, Consolidated Communications is participating in the “EBB” rate program, which gives a significant price break for qualified customers. To find out more, see: www.consolidated.com/ebb. Be prepared though: the signup process is a two-step process and not particularly easy. First, the intended recipient for the discount has to submit information to a specific national organization to prove they qualify. We are cautioned to beware of a scam that is scarfing up personal data in this process, so be sure ONLY to use "the official Emergency Broadband Benefit website GetEmergencyBroadband.org, to enroll in the program.” Once the applicant qualifies, they get a special qualification code, which they submit to whichever internet service provider they have chosen. This works for both existing and new customers. However, you may get a notice that CCI is not accepting new customers in your area. If you have an existing internet account, it should work, if you qualify.

That’s enough for today! More info as we go forward.

Abbie