



TOWN OF GARLAND
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PLANNING BOARD
Minutes 9/29/2021

1. Call to order: 6:00

Declaration of quorum: Present: Ed Hummel, Peter Devine, Kandie Cleaves, Nathan Pitts Ursula Bernier. Alternate: Robert Goings. Guests: Gina Fick (selectperson), John Cyr (Selectperson), David Carmichael

2. Approval of minutes of 9/14/21: Moved and accepted as ammended
Motion: __Robert__ Second: __Nathan__ Vote _5/_0/_0_

3. Correspondence: None

4. Broadband Grant Work Session: Discussion: Robert reported that in talking with a Premium Choice representative, he learned that Premium Choice would probably not be willing to serve some Garland residents who lived off the grid. Peter and Ed didn't think that would be a problem. Peter raised a concern that having a company like Premium Choice own the infrastructure in town is essentially giving them a monopoly which might prove problematic later on. Others felt that Premium Choice was the only company even remotely interested in serving Garland and that so far, their performance has been excellent. Nathan reported that trying to share service using micro-waves with spread apart homes was difficult as trees block the transmission.

ACTION: Ask the Select Board to give the Planning Board approval to start the broadband grant process to pursue broadband infrastructure with Premium Choice Broadband.

Motion: __Kandie__ Second __Ursula__ Vote: 5/0/0

ACTION: To pursue development of universal fiber-optic infrastructure and broadband service to all residents of Garland served by power lines.

Motion: __Peter__ Second: __Ursula__ Vote: 5/0/0

Discussion: Questions were raised about how best to inform the citizens of broadband activities being pursued by the Planning Board and to involve the citizens in the process. The previous Planning Board survey was discussed and generally felt to be too limited and somewhat out of date. Gina suggested that the Transfer Station was one way to interact with a wide range of citizens.

ACTION: Put up a notice at the Transfer Station, Garland Store, Garland Town Office and Town of Garland Web Page informing the residents of the Planning Board's initiatives re: improving broadband infrastructure in the town and asking residents if they approve or disapprove.

Motion: __Ed__ Second: __Kandie__ Vote: 5/0/0

Kandie and Ursula volunteered to develop the informational survey to be passed by Ed before implementing

Adjournment: 7:58 pm

Motion: __Peter__ Second: __Nathan__ Vote: 5/0/0