



TOWN OF GARLAND
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PLANNING BOARD

Minutes

9/14/21

1. Call to order: 6:00

Declaration of quorum: Present: Ed Hummel, Peter Devine, Kandie Cleaves, Nathan Pitts.
Guests: Robert Goings, County Commissioner Andre Cushing, Bill Varney (Premium Choice), Bill Babine (Premium Choice), Ursula Bernier, Mike Bernier, Edie Smith (Regional Representative for Senator King via Zoom), Danny Sullivan (Baileyville via Zoom), Peggy Schaffer, (executive director, EMDC via zoom)

2. Approval of minutes of 7/13/21: Moved and accepted as written
Motion: __Ed__ Second: __Nathan__ Vote 4 / 0 / 0

3. Correspondence (see attached):

Maine Receiving Over \$128 Million for Broadband From American Rescue Plan (Edie Smith / Senator King)

Community Broadband Startup Grants (ConnectME)

Community Broadband Planning Grants (ConnectME)

Decision Time: Choosing the Right Broadband Solution for Your Community (Peggy Schaffer of ConnectME)

4. Major family land re-surveying and division review: Mrs. Major reported that their lawyer stated that they need a letter from the Planning Board stating that the re-alignment of their lot lines will not put their previous subdivision approval in jeopardy. Ed Hummel recommended that the Major's contact the Code Enforcement Officer, Phil Stevens, and ask him to look at what changes they had made or intend to make.
5. Update on Broadband Initiative: Bill Varney of Premium Choice Broadband made a presentation (see attached) describing the current status of fiber optic infrastructure in

Garland and outlining potential funding sources for building out the system to serve all households with high speed options. He stated that the fiber itself can handle a lot more volume if the need arises in the future. He suggested that working on grants with adjacent communities won't make any difference and that Premium Choice would work with Garland to write appropriate grant applications if we choose to go in the direction of Premium Choice owning the infrastructure.

Danny Sullivan from Baileyville described the process his community followed starting in 2018 to end up with a municipally owned infrastructure with Internet Service Provider, Pioneer, hired by the municipality to service the system. It was noted that If an ice storm broke a cable, the municipality would be responsible for fixing the break.

Commissioner Cushing talked about County ARPA funds and stated that the county may incentivize communities to work together, and, if so, that it was important to clear up who's in charge.

Edie Smith emphasized getting the town engaged especially if the town needs to raise money to match potential grants. She said that the first round application deadline for Planning Grants is November and that it is imperative that Garland move as quickly as possible to have our best chance at grant funding.

Motion to assign Kandie as point person to investigate grants in consultation with Robert Goings. Motion: __Peter__ Second: __Nathan__ Vote 4/0/0

Motion to hold a Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 6:00 pm to focus solely on broadband and invite the select board. Motion: __Peter__ Second: __Nathan__ Vote 4/0/0

6. Public participation: Ursula Bernier expressed interest in joining the Planning Board and was given information on how to proceed.
7. Update / work session on town roads' status and official names: Peter reported that he met with Phil Stevens, the town's E-911 Coordinator and Karen Stone, the Administrative Assistant. Phil apparently is presently unable to readily access the E-911 website to obtain information re: Garland's roads and make changes. Peter gave the most recent E-911 map (circa 1997) and notes from interviewing Justin Gudroe re: the status of road maintenance to Karen so that she may make copies for the incoming public works employees.

Motion: Ed will invite Phil to the October Planning Board meeting to discuss E-911 and other issues. Motion: __Ed__ Second: __Kandie__ Vote 4/0/0

8. New Business and other matters:

- a. Peter stated that Karen had suggested that the Planning Board ask the town lawyer to review the proposed Subdivision Ordinance. Ed will follow up with Karen.
- b. Ed asked that we discuss who should hold the position of Planning Board Chairperson. Motion to keep Ed as Chair: __Peter__ Second: __Nathan__
Vote _4/_0/_0_

9. Adjournment: 8:23 pm. Motion: __Peter__ Second: __Ed__ Vote _4/_0/_0_