



TOWN OF GARLAND
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PLANNING BOARD
Minutes

Tuesday, 6/14/2022 - Garland Town Office

1. Call to order and quorum: 6:00

Ed Hummel, Ursula Bernier, Nathan Pitts, Peter Devine, Greg Crispell

Guests: Diane Wilson, Simon Thorne from Consolidated Communications

2. Approval of minutes of 5/24/22 (as amended (deleting “working” from item (I)))

Motion: Nathan

Second: Ursula

Vote: 5/0/0

3. Correspondence: None

4. Broadband presentation by Simon Thorne, representative of Consolidated Communications: (see Power Point slide show for maps and more details). Consolidated (also known as Fidium) currently has a network serving a significant portion of Garland. Through winning a bid process with the federal government, it is required to provide high speed broadband to several remote sections of Garland with the financial support of the federal government. It will be building a fully fiber network with a potential capacity of 10 gigabytes per second and will be offering symmetrical (same speed uploading as downloading) service from 50 megabytes per second to 2 gigabytes. Initial cost of 50mbps will be \$35/mo. rising to \$55/mo. after one year. For 2gbps initial cost will be \$165/mo. rising to \$190/mo. after one year. The federal minimum is 25mbps downloading and 3mbps uploading, which Mr. Thorne suggested is probably way too slow. There are 1313 addressable homes in Garland and 44.65 miles of road.

Mr. Thorne suggested that when comparing companies, it is important to know the speeds of up and down loading. He also suggested that we work closely with the multi-town regional effort centered in Dover-Foxcroft (contact person Denise Buzzelli of the Piscataquis Regional Chamber of Commerce) to move forward with a Request for Proposals (RFP) ideally in time for the next wave of grant submittals this fall. Mr. Thorne has an upcoming meeting in Dover-Foxcroft on 6/28 at 12:30.

5. Old Business:

- FOAA Training: Ed will ask Karen Stone to set up this training for the Planning Board at our regular July meeting.
- Maps and E-911: Lori, in the town office has the most recent E-911 map and the 2021 Maine DOT map and a list of discrepancies. There is no new information from Phil Stevens on progress with E-911 software. Ed to inform Select Board of limited interaction with Phil.
- Millet Rd. Bridge: Engineering design will cost \$24,000. The town is considering using some of the ARPA funds for this.
- Mailings: Mailings to all senior citizen residents in Garland have gone out offering support for home repairs (insulation, septic, water, ramps, etc.) through connections with PENQUIS programs.
- ARPA Funds Committee: Kandie and Diane Wilson have participated on this committee which has been meeting and discussing the town's needs.
- Maine Resilience Partnership and Dover Foxcroft Climate Action Advisory Committee: Action: Robert is waiting on notification of the next Broadband Subcommittee meeting. Robert is asked to contact Denise Buzzelli of the Piscataquis Regional Chamber of Commerce to encourage her to move rapidly forward with a Request for Proposals so that we can be part of the next wave of grant submissions.

6. New Business:

- No date as yet for next town meeting

- Planning Board e-mail list: The planning board still does not have an email address from which to send out informational updates to citizens who have given us their email addresses. Ed to ask Select Board to provide the planning board with an address.

7. Public Forum: none

8. Adjournment 7:58

Motion: Peter

Second:Nathan

Vote: 5/0/0