

# Broadband Implementation Committee

July 26, 2024, 1pm, Zoom

## Attendees

Tom Sevigney, Craig Mansfield, Stan Conover, Stuart Palmer, Linda Ziemienieski

Meeting called to order at 1:02pm

June 21, 2024 Minutes approved, Motion made Stan, 2nd Craig

Motion to approve the invoices for the mass mailing printing at \$375 and the postage for the mass mailing at \$863.83 made by Stan, 2nd Stuart

Linda asked about the outstanding invoice for the large sign printing which Craig was to look into. The invoice for \$910 for the large sign printing was received by email. Motion made to approve the invoice for the large signs at \$910 made by Stan, 2nd Craig

The State denied our grant application. There were three reasons given that Entry Point said could be fixed by a simple phone call but the state responded to our request for reconsideration saying that they are not doing 1-1 phone calls. There will be a mass call-in meeting we can participate in, otherwise, we can reapply next year when they open the grant again. Irene even tried to make some connections and was told no 1-1 calls are accepted. Stan asked if there were any municipalities that received grants and the answer is we haven't heard. Anyone who was accepted is going into the next round of application actions, which we are not privy to.

Entry Point will be providing us with their opinions of next actions for funding options at the next meeting. The USDA grant is a possibility but there are no further details including the Federal Reserve lower interest rates, which is in discussions but not decided as of yet.

Sign-ups on the website continue to trickle in at about 1-2 each day. We have reached about 1760 interested sign-ups.

A general discussion of the grant denial ensued. Our next meeting will focus on funding options from Entry Point, decision on a direction. Craig outlined the history of the USDA grant used for the Middle School construction project and the cumbersome requirements involved. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 114pm

Next meeting August 9, 2024 1pm Zoom

We received an invoice from Entry Point for \$1250 for the assistance for the State Grant application. Motion to approve the payment Stan, 2nd Laurel

Craig pointed out we have not received an invoice for the big lawn signs we ordered in the total of \$880

#### Update on the State Grant

Issues regarding GIS were addressed by Craig. There were 25 bullet points. Nicole from EP will write the narrative to address these by the end of the weekend. This will be sent to each of us to review and edit as needed and then to finalize with attachments if needed by Wednesday end of day to resubmit. Issues included, but were not limited to, ISP owner. They also noted we had 45 project locations outside of the project area. We think this is possibly Colchester, Salem, Hadlyme addresses that are town residences. Tom expressed, with EP supporting this that the State is trying to help us rather than dismissing our application outright. There are not many municipalities applying and Tom feels we are in a good place with our application.

#### Outreach

We have reached 1600 interested. Tom is meeting Sunday with the Lake GHayward Board and community at 10am

The mass mailing was delayed-it is fixed now and will be out in the mail by Wednesday

This is the final push in the education leg of the committee

Erik from EP wants to add More Info tab to the website and feels the FAQs should be updated with questions being forwarded to Tom to answer.

Next Meeting July 5, 2024, 1pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm