TOWN OF WINTERPORT
BROADBAND COMMITTEE MINUTES
TOWN CONFERENCE ROOM / ZOOM
April 24, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

WINTERPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	Phil Higgins**,** Kevin Kelley, Ethan Tremblay, (Chair), Matt Williams.
FRANKFORT REPRESENTATIVE:	Joe Watson, Bill Pupkis.
PROSPECT REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandy Bridges.
STOCKTON SPRINGS REPRESENTATIVE:	Mac Smith, Town Manager.
WINTERPORT TOWN MANAGER:	Casey Ashey.

CALL TO ORDER: April 24, 2023 @ 6:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion to approve minutes April 24, 2023. 1st B. Pupkis 2nd J. Watson. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No comments.

MISSION STATEMENT:

- **"**Affordable high-speed internet for all residents".

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominations for Vice-Chair.
  - Nomination of M. Smith for Vice Chair. 1st M. Williams, 2nd B. Pupkis. Motion carries, 1 abstention.

SPEAKERS

- Direct Connection / Unitel (DC), Daniel Parrish, Jayne Sullivan.
- Mission Broadband (MBB), John Dougherty, Jeff Nevins.
- Island Institute, Crista Thorpe, Jennifer Bristol.

DISCUSSION:

- Reviewed the latest speed tests for each town: Frankfort 16.16%, Stockton Springs 13.8%, Winterport 12.75%, Prospect 7.65%.
- WFS website received: Unique visits of 130, Visits of 75, Page visits 177, Overall, Unique visits of 163, Visits of 195, Page visits of 415.
- Island Institute discussed the Digital Equity Plan (DEP) that is part of the requirements for the state to submit to the federal government for funding.
  - The state plan includes thirteen partners throughout the state.
  - Then goal of digital equity: A condition in which all individuals and communities have the IT capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy. Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.
  - The Hancock and Waldo Regional Digital Inclusion Coalition plan is both regional and tribal. The plan calls for Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD). Individual towns are not required to have a BEAD plan in place, but is beneficial for future grants. The timeline for the BEAD plan began in February and will be completed by July, 2023.
  - The BEAD plan will be submitted to the state on Friday. The BEAD Plan is required for the multiplier affecting the federal grant funding for the state.
  - The 5 elements of the plan are: Affordable robust broadband internet service, Internet enabled devices that meet the needs of the user, Access to digital literacy training, Quality technical support, applications and online content to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.
- DC reviewed the four town plan and the three phases for installing fiber and establishing connectivity. Committee reviewed the cost analysis provided by DC.
- MBB reported the FCC maps analysis are almost complete and will be public by June. The guidelines for the next grant process will also, be coming out in June. MBB noted that the cost to build out is higher that the funds available through this grant process.
- Next meeting May 8, 2023, 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn at 8:22 pm. 1st, P. Higgins, 2nd B. Pupkis. Motion carries.

_____, Chair _____/_____/_____ Secretary: Kevin J. Kelley