

August 17, 2023

Meeting Notes

Loudon Economic Development Committee Meeting

Attendees: EDC Members: Stephen Caine (Via Zoom), Jeff Miller, Per Garp, Rodney Phillips. Central NH Regional Planning Commission: Mike Tardiff, Vincent Pagano.

The August 17 meeting of the Loudon Economic Development Committee was called to order at 5:33 pm. The June 1 meeting minutes were considered. Rodney Phillips motioned to approve, and Jeff Miller seconded the motion. The June 1 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Mission Broadband has the NH state contract for outreach coordination for the next round of broadband buildout finding. During a meeting with CNHRPC and Mission Broadband on August 14, 2023, CNHRPC inquired about potential conflict in assisting Loudon and Canterbury, if agreed upon by both towns and ISP, with a Broadband Matching Grant Initiative (BMGI) application. Mission Broadband checked with the state agency that awarded the contract and confirmed there is no conflict.

The needs that Loudon has for higher quality and better availability of broadband can be met in the short-term with Comcast/Xfinity and a partnership between Loudon and Canterbury using available funds from grants. Mission Broadband put together a proposal for working with Canterbury in a scope that is similar to the previous contract with Loudon but reduced in scope and cost. Matt Conserva, the contact at the state agency that is in charge of distributing and awarding grant funds from BMGI, BEAD, and other broadband infrastructure funding sources is aware of the Loudon EDC involvement and consistency in pursuing a broadband infrastructure improvement in Loudon. The application for the BMGI would be a joint application between Loudon and Canterbury. BMGI calls for a local/ISP match which could be divided in several ways, with Canterbury, Loudon, and the ISP each contributing to the match. There is a BMGI webinar on August 23 from 3-4pm. There are two tranches of funding available but the intention of the LEDC is to be first in line to the funds to avoid chances of funds running out before Loudon and Canterbury can access and competitively apply for them.

CNHRPC will come to a Loudon Select Board meeting after confirming with Canterbury on a partnership to pursue the BMGI. The opportunity for economic development in Loudon can come from the improvement of all broadband infrastructure improvement in the town.

There is a new standard for cable broadband, called DOCSIS 4.0, which was explained in further detail in previous LEDC meetings.

CNHRPC and Mission Broadband, under direction from the LEDC, intended to understand buildout costs from ISPs. Mission Broadband was unable to identify buildout costs from ISPs.

The coordination with Canterbury is enticing to an ISP because of potential customer growth.

When the Mission Broadband contract lapses the goal is to be equipped as an EDC to continue the progress that has been made over the past year.

The next Loudon EDC is September 21 at 5:30pm.

Jeff Miller motioned to adjourn, Per Garp seconded and the Loudon EDC adjourned unanimously at 5:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent Pagano