

Minutes

Broadband Committee Meeting September 8, 2025

In Attendance: Michael Porter, Gary Oderda, David Hill, Michael Grew, Erhardt Groothoff, and Mark Oulette.

The meeting was delayed from a scheduled 5:00 pm start by technical problems with Zoom. It was suggested that it would be helpful for an appointment to be distributed for future meetings that includes a link to the meeting with the meeting id and password.

The membership of the Committee was discussed. Since Erhardt, David and Richard are now on the Selectboard they can not continue to serve as active members of the Committee. The terms of Michael Porter and Michael Grew have expired. At this time the remaining appointed members of the Committee are Adam Kagan and Gary Oderda. Michael Grew and Michael Porter have applied for reappointment but that request has not been acted upon. David Hill agreed to speak with Vika to determine future Committee membership.

Several Committee members received a mailer from Consolidated (Fidium Internet) offering them fiber internet for \$30 per month. This is an introductory rate that will increase. Prior to development of the fiber network on Chebeague, Consolidated indicated that they would not offer competitive service. Axiom currently has a wholesale agreement for use of the undersea cable with Consolidated and we are leasing space on Consolidated polls. Consolidated would need to add to its existing fiber network on Chebeague to provide broader service. It was felt that it is unlikely that Consolidated could block provision of current service through Axiom and the town, but it was suggested that a positive communication effort be instituted to promote Axiom service be implemented.

Mark Oulette provided a report on the current operation of the system. There are currently 412 active subscribers to the system, which are about evenly split between year round and seasonal residents. Approximately 80% of users are at lower levels or speed (50 or 100). Since March there have been 285 trouble tickets with 268 closed. It was decided that future reports will be distributed quarterly.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Gary Oderda