

TOWN OF MARLBORO
SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 23, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Present were select board members Ty Gibbons, Chair, Pieter Van Loon, Vice Chair and Patti Smith. Also present were Brian Whitehouse, Keely Eastley, M. Shelley, Bill Esses, and Marcia Hamilton, Select Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting came to order at 4:05 PM.

IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES TO AGENDA:

No changes were made to the agenda.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

The Connectivity Committee organized itself in the following manner: Ty Gibbons will be Chair, Brian Whitehouse will be Vice Chair, and Shelley will be secretary.

The group discussed two main goals: ensuring all town members have internet access, and getting past DSL and preparing for the future.

High-speed cable coming from neighboring towns: Duncan Cable (Wilmington, small organization) and Comcast (Brattleboro). Some indication Comcast may be planning on extending into our area, but this is not certain -- worth looking into. One or several of us will talk to Comcast to get more information on this, perhaps before anything else.

Perhaps there should be another town survey to gauge interest/feelings locally. According to the state, there are standard metrics for measuring this, and Marlboro is not high-priority. The state might also be able to run a survey through the town assessing community needs as well as geography, and then that could be relayed back to service providers so they have additional information on how to start providing cable service to the region. Ty will contact Clay Purvis, the Connectivity Development Manager for the Vermont Department of Public Service about this.

Duncan Cable provides TV and cable internet to several towns in the region (the Dover area, Wilmington, West Wardsboro) and are a small organization providing community infrastructure. They will be worth talking to as a potential information/procedures resource.

Vtel's service area map shows the entire town of Marlboro is covered, but it is not. It would benefit the public record if this misrepresentation were corrected.

Putting out a survey -- it would be good to do this both on paper and online, in order to reach the most people. If we received results from either demographic more than the other, the results will be skewed. There are just over 600 year-round residents in Marlboro, and only about 20% of this group responded to the last survey. Folks living down on Augur Hill have voiced discontent with a complete unavailability of internet within the past year. There is a question of existence of service vs. quality of service.

Do people in town even want faster internet? Internet transfers are only going to increase in required available traffic, and this could cause trouble in coming years.

ADJOURN:

The special select board meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley, Secretary for the Marlboro Connectivity Committee