



AGENDA

HARRISON SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP

Thursday, June 17, 2021 – 6:00PM

All regular select board meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month. Meetings are recorded and posted on the Town Website and on Lake Region Television usually in 2 days.

Due to COVID-19 Public Participation is limited: Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. **Reminder to the attending public:** Select Board meetings are open to the public, but the public may not speak unless recognized by the Chair or Vice Chair only during Public Participation. Comment time is limited to 2 minutes per speaker. Matters related to personnel will not be heard or discussed.

Present: Chairman Matthew Frank, Vice Chairman Raymond Laplante, Selectman Richard Sykes, Selectman Penny Bean, Selectman Henry Dumont, Town Manager Tim Pellerin, Secretary Denise Dumont

Public: Harrison Broadband Advisory Committee members: Phil Devlin and Wendy Gallant, Walter Riseman was absent due to being in Augusta Legislature

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Call the Meeting to Order
- III. New Business
 - A. Broadband Committee Discussion

The Broadband Committee gave a slide presentation on the Summary of their activities over the past year, overall projects plan and the next phase as they see it.

Survey Results showed that 31% had good or very good service, 69% fair/poor, 47% think service costs too much, 52% think service level impacts work, education or other activity. Survey showed served and unserved areas.

Strategic Goals: Increase broadband accessibility from 74% to 100% and utilization to 95% of permanent residence. Tactical objectives to implement broadband infrastructure and service platforms that will allow for future predicted broadband growth. Address affordable rates for all residents and recognize the need for flexibility (e.g., seasonal) in services and prices.

Project strategy going forward: Encourage a multi-town cooperative effort to utilize resources, increase leverage and possibly reduce costs.

Next steps: Recharter Harrison Broadband Advisory Committee. They are looking to do a feasibility study with area communities and then potential get an RFP for service for each town. The feasibility study could be funded by Grant money they have not spent yet.

We already pay GPCOG to give us news, information and pay them to hire an expert to help and give more support. They also have a grant which they hired interns to help towns with Broadband. They allocated an intern for us and w/share her with Naples. She is allocated for 10 hours a week for us, and she is working the Broadband Committee. Sooner or later, it will come down to a community group effort. We have been working and sharing information with

surrounding towns so we are at the same place so it will be easier to move forward. GPCOG will be doing the feasibility study and it will take approximately 6 weeks. Then late fall would like to do an RFP (Request for Proposal) to Development of Better Internet for the Region.

Wendy Update: We have been given 3 hotspots which are wireless extensions of internet through a grant: One will be at the Town Office, another possibly at Crystal Lake Park and the 3rd at the Food Bank. Town is responsible for the first 2.

Tim: We ran into a snag at Crystal Lake Park because we only have internet during the summer and no heat in the winter, so we are asking questions and working on that right now.

Wendy: There are parameters that can be set up like off at 10 pm, possibly putting sponsors etc.

Question: What about something temporary perhaps Redzone like Bridgton is talking about?
Wendy: It is expensive (\$500,000 +/-) and it is wireless so it may not reach everywhere. They put up towers and it does not reach in valleys and might not reach our trouble spots anyway.

The Committee would like to have more community involvement and get information out so they are brainstorming ways they can do that. YouTube or Podcast. Giving tips that might help boost your internet now with new router or boosters can be used. Most people might benefit from just information. They are asked what is happening with Broadband in the Town. Unfortunately, when we tell them it is a process and might take a while they are frustrated. People are looking for a quick fix because they need something more reliable or don't have any right now.

Tim suggested having GoToMeeting virtual meeting sharing the slide show and information like they had tonight to inform people. Maybe having it over 3 consecutive Wednesday nights and call it a Public Hearings. People can use their computer or call in and listen and/or ask questions. Might also get people interested in joining the committee.

S. Sykes asked how many people on the Committee do not have internet or not reliable internet. Phil: Just himself at this point.

- IV. Next Meeting:
 - A. Select Board Meeting, Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 6 pm
- V. Adjournment at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Frank, Chairman

Denise Dumont, Secretary