

Town of Waldoboro
Communications Technology Committee
Agenda
Monday, November 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm

1. Sign in and Call to Order, determine quorum

John Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The following committee members constituted a quorum:

Richard Genthner (RG), Dick Glidden (DG), Richard Hoffses (RH), John Lawrence (JL), and Bob Butler (BB).

The CTC held it's meeting in the Fire Department conference room. The Town Office conference room was not available because the Comp-Plan Committee was holding its meeting in that room.

2. Old Business

a. Approve Minutes Of October 21st Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 21st meeting was made and seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

b. Update: Municipal Conference Room Video Streaming

The committee decided by consensus to obtain two proposals for streaming events from the Municipal Conference room and asked RG to take the lead. One proposal would be a minimalist solution; the second would be for state-of-the-art equipment. RG said the technology is changing so quickly that the Select Board's choice between completely new equipment and keeping the same cameras and converting the signal to digital would be determined entirely on the basis of budgetary constraints. RG will set out the pros and cons of each proposed solution and run the numbers. He has connections in Portland and elsewhere who will assist him in determining what the town needs. He will review any proposed solutions with LCTV and the Town Administrator/Town Manager. RG suggests that the town stream HD quality video to U-Tube, which can be done at no cost. (The town cannot stream live using Vimeo, which is not free.) Live U-Tube streaming can be structured to allow the audience to ask questions during a streamed meeting. Also, the videos streamed to U-Tube can be downloaded and archived to a hard drive. LCTV would continue to receive its digital file of each meeting, but they would not broadcast live to LCTV.

RG suggested that 4K video isn't necessary. While U-Tube CAN accept 4K

video, TWC cannot. And, as noted previously, the technology changes so quickly that an investment in 4K technology may not be practical in the long run.

RG explained that an Audio Video bridge would take the signal directly from the video board in the conference room straight to U-Tube. There are other ways, as well.

RG suggested we would be well advised to review state and federal regulations to see how long the town is required to archive its records. Our town manager could check with the MMA. Archiving digital records would be far more efficient and would take up far less space than archiving printed records.

RG raised the question of what LCTV does with the funds it receives from TWC's franchise revenues. His thought was the LCTV could more appropriately pay for the technical improvements allowing Waldoboro's live streaming of meetings. If that were the case, who would own the equipment? LCTV? Or, the Town of Waldoboro? Is Waldoboro getting \$38,000 worth of services from LCTV?

Should we be live streaming Fire Department and EMS trainings? Should every department of town government be live streaming its meetings?

The committee agreed by consensus to invite Mary Ellen Crowley of LCTV to the next meeting to learn what other Lincoln County towns are doing.

It was noted that the only people who have access to LCTV are TWC customers. LCI customers do have access to U-Tube.

c. Remaining Un-Served and Underserved Areas of Waldoboro

Dick Glidden volunteered to obtain a street map of Waldoboro, similar to (but hopefully larger than) the map hanging on the wall of the Fire Department office. The CTC would then use the map to show where LCI, TWC, Fairpoint and other service providers currently make Internet available within the borders of the town. Mary Ellen Barnes, Executive Director of Lincoln County Regional Planning, had also offered to provide a GIS map.

Organize feedback on phone calls the Town Office receives from residents complaining about or simply noting the lack of connectivity in their areas.

d. Update: Wi-Fi Hot Spots at strategic locations in Waldoboro

The CTC discussed potential locations for Wi-Fi hotspots. Mentioned were 50 Pine Street, Dunkin' Donuts, the roof of Phillip Guillerm's building, the

Irving Station at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Route One, Hannaford, and The First.

The CTC will work on establishing a basis for discussion with a provider. LCI is interested, but does not have the technology. Would LCI find a partner or develop the technical capability in-house? Interested WBA members might sponsor one or more hotspots. The CTC discussed whether users' access times should be limited.

Use of Camden as a local benchmark was mentioned. Camden worked with RedZone to build their hotspots.

This topic will be followed during future CTC meetings.

3. New Business

a. Questionnaire aimed at identifying remaining un-served Internet pockets

The CTC agreed by consensus to pend this item until a map of served areas within Waldoboro is completed.

b. Development of educational document.

The CTC would like to author a comparison of Fiber Speed vs. Cable and DSL speeds and broadband width.

A case study, perhaps using Northeast Transport as the subject, could be constructed. It was reported that if that company's phone was inoperable for more than 10 minutes, more than \$150,000 in business could be lost. Another approach might be to invite the owner of Waldoboro Business Park to a CTC meeting to discuss comparative efficiencies of DSL/Cable versus Fiber optic.

The Baptist Church near Moody's was mentioned as a possible case study. The church is considering a new sanctuary and might wish to stream its own church services to a wider audience or to receive live streams from other churches. Religious streaming within Waldoboro, generally, could be a source of interest in Fiber optic capabilities. Cable and DSL would not provide reliable services to such efforts.

c. Pricing Issue.

The CTC needs to obtain solid pricing from providers that is both consistent and reliable. For some providers, there are bundle pricing issues that make them uncompetitive.

d. Lincoln County Regional Development. Bob Butler and John Lawrence reported that Mary Ellen Barnes, Executive Director of LCRD confirmed the unavailability of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding broadband infrastructure/

4. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

5. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Butler
Secretary.