

Temple Community Planning Committee (TCPC), Subcommittee on Broadband
October 1, 2019, 7 PM
Temple Town Hall
Final Minutes

Attendees: Christine Robidoux, Greg Robidoux, Keith Charlton, Jessica Hipp

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is for C. Robidoux, Chair of the TCPC, to brief J. Hipp and K. Charlton about issues relating to broadband in Temple.

C. Robidoux gave the following information as background:

- The ConVal Select Board Advisory Committee held a public forum on Sept 18, 2019 at CVHS which was attended by C. Robidoux and J. Hipp, as well as Temple Select Board members George Willard and Bill Ezell. Senator Jeanne Dietsch also attended. Sen. Dietsch is on the Commission on Rural Affairs (RSA 9-A:5) and is the Telecom Chair. A presentation on what Hancock is doing, as well as discussion on Dublin's work to date around this issue, was shared with the group. Three broadband providers gave a brief overview of their service and took questions from the audience. There was discussion of the overbuild issue, and how it is preventing neighborhoods from accessing broadband.
- At the Radically Rural Conference in Sept 2019 in Keene, the Commission on Rural Affairs held a listening session attended by C. Robidoux and I. Bibler. The National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE) is holding a NH Broadband Initiative conference at the end of October. The ED, Robert McLaughlin shared information about funding resources, and encouraged municipalities to reach out to the collaborative for more information. Takeaway from this conference is that there are ways to get financing as a rural community. Temple is not eligible for federal funding, because we don't meet the requirements for percentage of residents who are low and moderate income.
- Also present at the listening session was Senator Jay Kahn, who wrote and sponsored SB 170, which allows municipalities to bond for broadband in rural communities. Information was shared with him about local broadband challenges, including the flexibility to bond as a school district rather than as a municipality. He requested additional information from other towns in our area. C. Robidoux shared his contact info with our Select Board, as well as with Karen Hatcher, Peterborough Select Board member.

- At their meeting on September 24th, C. Robidoux updated the Select Board on conversations at Radically Rural and informed them of the conference at the end of October. The next step for Temple is to complete an RFI to understand the current status of broadband in town and what our needs are. This is tasked to the subcommittee, consisting of J. Hipp and K. Charlton. The Select Board has approved beginning this process. The subcommittee will present a plan to the Select Board, and the Select Board will need to sign off on the RFIs.

All attendees shared anecdotal understandings of the current state of Broadband in Temple, including:

- TDS has line on the road near the Timberdoodle Club. Historically, they have declined providing service to that neighborhood on multiple times.
- There are pockets of Temple that do not have any internet.
- Some homes have internet, but speeds do not qualify as broadband.

C. Robidoux, K. Charlton, and J. Hipp will all attend the NH Summit 2019: Economic Inclusion and Digital Equity at St. Anselm. They will divide their time so that at least one member of the committee is present during the entirety of the conference.

J. Hipp will reach out to point people in neighboring towns, including Hancock and Dublin, who have already issued RFIs and/or RFPs.

K. Charlton will contact local ISPs.

The next meeting of the Broadband Subcommittee of the TCPC will meet on Tuesday, November 6 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Hipp