

**Broadband Subcommittee of
Community Advisory Committee (TCAC)
FINAL Minutes
Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 7:30 PM
Via Zoom per Gov. Sununu Emergency Orders #12 & #16**

Attendees: Keith Charlton, Dana Nowell, Christine Robidoux, Jessica Hipp, Ken Caisse

Christine Robidoux read the State of Emergency text. Attendance was taken via roll call.

Minutes from the April 23rd broadband meeting were approved unanimously.

The Bond hearing is next Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. The bond application was signed and submitted. The municipal bond bank had a couple of follow up questions that were sufficiently answered.

SB85 hearing on Monday showed broad support. This is a bipartisan bill with broad support. Questions were asked about speeds. Any towns in process as of January 1, 2021 are eligible to receive SB85 funding. Takes effect July 1. Unknown: how much money will be put into the fund. Are there specific guidelines from federal govt about how money is allocated. Other consideration is that Gov's budget proposal includes moving the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives to be under the State Department of Energy.

Christine attended presentation on the FCC emergency assistance program, hosted by Chris Pappas and Annie Kuster. The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program starts on May 12th. This is a temporary, direct benefit to households. Households can apply for \$50/month including equipment rentals, plus \$100 towards the purchase of a laptop or tablet from participating providers, with a household contribution of \$10-\$49.99.

- Eligible households include SNAP, Medicaid, Lifeline, Free/Reduced lunches, Pell Grants, Job loss in 2020 due to COVID since Feb 29 2020, or currently qualifies for existing provider's low-income or COVID-19 program.
- Households apply through their provider. Current participating Temple providers include: Comcast, TDS, AT&T, & Verizon. CCI does not participate at this time. Jessica will ask CCI if they have plans to participate. CCI does participate in the Lifeline program, which does not expire. Lifeline has more income qualifications for who can participate.
- Additional information on eligibility and how to apply at www.GetEmergencyBroadband.org or call (833) 511-0311. Mail-in applications are available.
- Toolkit available with fact sheet and social media posts to promote the program available at www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

The subcommittee discussed the draft CCI contract, including general feedback from other towns participating in the Monadnock Broadband Group. The committee noted edits and questions. Jessica will compile and send to Atty John Ratigan. After his review, the redlined contract will go to CCI.

The meeting adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Upcoming Dates

- May 19th @ 6:30 pm – bond hearing hosted by the Select Board
- May 20th @ 7 pm – CAC meeting
- Saturday, June 5th @ 2pm – Q&A forum