September New Ipswich Broad Band Minutes

September

-Virtually participated in the Southwest Region Planning Commission Broad Band

-The BB committee pressed with other issues… as highlighted w/key points below:
--We developed and forwarded to the town administrator two SB-170 BB Survey process-requesting providers evaluate the communities BB availability
---Providers have 2 months to respond …not hearing from the provider constitutes a pass allowing forward movement w/ a warrant article strategy.
--SAU-29 Internet Connectivity (survey of Mescenic school system to determine connectivity for student and teacher's).
---Distant learning supporting virtual learning (see above, survey captured only a small handful of students and teachers had IT challenges. Steps were put in place to assist; however customers must initiate their request support for service). We understand 3 families were known to have IT challenges.

-Ed Rodgers (Mascenic School District) has joined BB group. His IT background brings invaluable technical expertise to the group.

-New Ipswich resident Rich Harden was contacted to better understand his families BB short falls. The Harden's have suffered from BB shortfalls for years and has tried several remedies to overcome the shortfall. Among them include satellite dish & bonded modem solutions. We reached out to COMCAST to support the Harden' but our efforts proved fruitless. COMCAST technical staff recommended stringing copper cable via utility poles (est. $15K) fix. The Harden's are aware and are relying on their bonded modem solution to satisfy.

-Subsequent conversations shared with Todd Forman (highlighted USDA Rural Development efforts via a Community Connect Program
https://www.rd.usda.gov/community-connect
--The Community Connect Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the Broadband Grant Speed to all premises in rural, economically challenged communities where broadband service does not exist.
--Timelines & current on-hand data make it impossible to jump at this opportunity
--This underlines the criticality of gaining feedback from the SB-170 requests to understanding our current limitations.

-Made contact with several regional community towns whose members have shared critical information on how to jump-start our initiatives?
--We plan on hosting a conversation with Mason's BB group to highlight steps for us to jump-start our initiatives