

Broadband Project Update: 8/13/2020

Good afternoon all. I hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy.

There has been a lot of recent discussions on the topic of broadband here on Facebook the past several days. Many in support, many in frustration, all appreciated. A lot of hours, hard work, and commitment have been put forth trying to improve the situation here with broadband, and not just by myself, John Snowdon, JJ Prior, the Selectmen, and Jo Ann LaBarre. The residents in Westmoreland have played a huge role in this process as well. Taking time out of your busy schedules to attend the information sessions and listen to what we had to present, filling out surveys, and attending the Town Meeting and voting (whether it was for OR against) are all much appreciated, more than I can relay in a post. So all I can say is "Thank You" and please continue to exude support and be patient with the process. I know this is extremely difficult when we are currently in a time where frankly broadband is needed most, but we can do this.

With that in mind, here are the updates:

- **MILESTONE HIT:** On 8/12/20, the Town received our funding for the project from the Bond Bank! Additionally, the deposit for the project was paid to CCI the same day (Thank you Jo Ann for the prompt payment).
- Now that the deposit has been made, the next actions for the coming months fall on CCI. The Town has met our obligation to allow the network build to commence.
- CCI is finalizing their plans to begin as we speak. I will be having a conversation this afternoon with my contact from CCI who heads up this part of the project. The expectation will be that he can provide me with a start date (or anticipated start date at the very least). Once I have this information, I can follow up with a quick heads up here.

CCI has taken a lot of heat over this entire process, some of it more than justified. Please understand that while CCI has gobs of work to do with improving their overall processes (primarily in the Customer Service Department), the folks who are assigned to our project are really trying their best to get this done for us. When we set out on this project roughly 20 months ago, we were convinced that CCI was not going to be a future option for the Town, but we followed the process, entertained various offers, and ultimately got to the point we are at today, which is our best option, and one that I strongly believe everyone in Town will be more than thrilled with.

Final thought, and a bit of a "quick soapbox". If anyone wants updates at any point on this project, including intervals outside of the normal bi-weekly interval, keep doing what you are doing and ask. I will be more than happy to fill you in as best I can. I would avoid "asking

the guy at the pole". Just because the company name is written on the side of the truck does not necessarily mean that he is privy to accurate information.

Thanks and be well!

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