

Winchester Broadband Committee Minutes 5/8/2023

Members Present In Person: Natalie Quevado, Leonard Picard; Jennifer Bellan, Nichole Pelkey, Larry Wood, Jeannine Hadid

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Old Business:

Approval of old Minutes – Larry made a motion to approve the 11/21/2022 minutes. Leonard seconds. All in favor.

New Business:

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

Jenn & Nichole researched – If you enter your address into the portal, it should populate – Jenn’s did not. She called and was able to find it. Group reviewed and need to enter address slowly while it searches database.

- ACP was put together during COVID – started with a \$50 benefit has now decreased to a \$30 discount per month for eligible households
- Ensures households can afford broadband
- Can also receive a one-time discount up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 towards purchase price
- Limited to one monthly service per household
- Eligible if household income at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines

<u># HHM</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000
5	\$70,280
6	\$80,560
7	\$90,840
8	\$101,120

For each additional person add
\$10,280

- Eligible if receiving SNAP, Medicaid, Free/Reduced Lunch, House Assistance, WIC, VA Pension Benefits & more

- Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov or acpbenefit.org or call 877-384-2575

Broadband Technical Assistance Program

This is a grant we can apply for. \$22 million awarded to NH as part of rural development – housed under USDA and is specifically for rural communities.

Applications are due by June 20th.

Jenn & Leonard will look into this over the next week and share findings within the group messenger.

- What is the benefit to the town ?
- How much are we able to apply for vs how much do we need?

Miscellaneous

Committee needs to make a list of things we need from NH Broadband that will make it easier for residents to apply. Can share this with state as we are one of the first towns to roll out fully funded broadband.

- Need clear guidelines as to who is eligible
- Need portal open for future users and identify a way for users to sign up
- Ensure all addresses populate

We have enough ARPA for 2 more mailings.

Consolidated is now Fidium

Future agenda item – how do we roll this out to community? What do we want in the mailing? Jeannine suggested an early summer mailing.

Nex meeting scheduled for May 22, 2023 at 7pm - Broadband Technical Assistance grant will be on the agenda.

Nichole made a motion to adjourn. Leonard seconds. All are in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.