

The Midcoast Internet Coalition (MIC) meeting streamed from and recorded by The Town of Camden, including LiveStream, Broadcast on Town of Camden YouTube Channel.

Midcoast Internet Coalition Meeting

August 11th, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Zoom:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Participants:

Chair: Debra Hall (Rockport); Vice Chair: Matt Siegel (Camden)

Representatives:

Camden: Marc Ratner (SB), Jeremy Martin, Planning Director, Lisa Sheprow

Cushing: Craig Currie (SB)

Hope: Sarah Ann Smith (SB), Brian Powers (SB), Melissa Foster Hall

Lincolntonville: Josh Gerritsen (SB), Jordan Barnett-Parker (SB), Steve Koltai

Northport: Shelley Patten (SB), Jamie Ritter, Ann Frenning Kossuth, Brady Brim-DeForest

Owls Head: TBD (SB), Jacob Post, Jason Philbrook, Kim Slawson

Rockland: Ben Dorr (City Council), Nathan Davis (CC), Tom Luttrell, City Manager

Rockport: Denise Munger (SB), John Strand (SB)

South Thomaston: Walter Reitz (SB rep), Cliff Dacso, Lynne Canavan, Anne Just

Thomaston: Zel Bowman-LeBerge(SB) , Diane Giese (SB), Brian Doyle, Econ Dev Director

Union: Adam Fuller (SB), John Gibbons

Guests:

Camden National Bank: Steve Matteo

Knox County: Leticia Van Vuuren

Other Invited Guests: (August 2021)

Brooksville: Abbie McMillen

Peninsula Broadband Coalition: Donna Beninati, Jerry Wetterskog

Searsmont: Peter Milinazzo (SB), Darryl C, Chris Halsted

Southwestern Waldo County: Bob Kurak (SB)

St George: Jeff Boulet(BB) (Guest)

Vinalhaven: Gabe McPhail, Jan Ann Sherman, Matt Jablonski, Island Institute

Western Kennebec Lakes: Joe Young, Kathryn Woodsum, Eric Dyer

Wiscasset/Lincoln County Broadband: Carla Dickstein

2. Action Item – Motion to Approve July 14th, 2021 Minutes –

Attachment A are the draft July 14th, 2021 minutes.

3. Report by Leadership Team–

Shifting regional strategy: Facing the fiber vs fiber from Otelco, Core Four build

Designing a “pathway” project to unserved and underserved

Statewide: As a resource, partner, and development corporation

- 4. MIDC, Regional Utility – Update and discussion Items**
 - a. Thomaston and Rockland updates.
 - c. Filed and obtained registration for DUNS #, SAM #
 - d. 501(c)4 allows for lobbying, and down the line 501(c)3, for donations
 - e. Bank account with The First

- 5. Axiom Technologies planning study / network design – Discussion**
 - a. AXIOM, Phase One – underway, initial payments made directly to Axiom from participating towns.
 - b. Report/study of network design, rough costs, pro-forma financial statements, revised strategic plan in the face of Otelco.
 - c. End of August and first week of Sept for first data to review
 - d. Identify locations where utilities are underground/no poles

- 6. Project Funding – Updates and discussion**
 - a. Seed Money Strategies
 - b. Knox County: Applying for Knox County ARPA grant, 2021
 - c. Working with MCEED (Midcoast Economic Development District) for EDA/ARPA regional grant, 2022

- 7. Maine State - Updates and discussion**
 - a. MCA BOD nominated and approved
 - b. Upcoming discussion with Maine Municipal Bond Bank

- 8. MIC Community and Regional - Updates**

Town reports:

 - Rockport
 - Camden
 - Lincolntonville (update RFP / strategy)
 - Northport (GWI build out)
 - Hope (progress report of LCI build out)
 - Thomaston (ILA, next step)
 - Rockland (status update)
 - South Thomaston (update)
 - Cushing (update)
 - Union (meeting with MIDC and Axiom)
 - Owls Head
 - Southwestern Waldo County Searsmont (Waldo County update)
 - Western Kennebec Lakes

- 9. Finance – Update**

Seeking financial advisors, to create team

Assessing viability of private donations / creating Statement of Need

****Establish Finance Committee**

With feedback and models from above financial institutions

10. MarComm Committee: Branding, Marketing and Communications - Update

Josh Gerritsen, Steven Koltai, Cliff Dasco, Matt Siegel, Ann Frenning Kossuth, Melissa Foster Hall. Advisors: Lisa Sheprow, Lynne Canavan, Craig Currie

a. No committee meetings last month. Coming Soon.

b. Discussion with Vetro Mapping

Midcoast Internet to beta test their new Z Manager data management and mapping software platform

<https://vetrofibermap.com/products/z-manager/>

c. Upcoming: Pre-subscription / ascertain take rate – stats, next drive, to design based on other models, cull information and find best method

d. Now available: MIC Two pages, FAQ one sheets, PPT slide pack for presentations

11. New business

12. Adjournment – Action item

Please note: Future / Regular Meetings for 2021

The group set future meetings for the second Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. as follows:

Sept 8th Oct 13th Nov 10th Dec 8th

Reference guide, names to know, and industry contacts:

Axiom Technologies
Mark Ouellette, President and CEO

Bernstein-Shur, Attorneys at Law
Phil Saucier

ConnectME
Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director
Nick Battista, Chair, BOD
Liz Wyman, Attorney, Maine PUC
Jasmine Bishop, dire Telehealth MaineHealth
Susan Corbett, Dir National Digital Equity Center

Downeast Broadband Utility
Dan Sullivan

Eaton Peabody , Attorneys at Law
Bill Ferdinand

Dan Pittman

Educate Maine
Jason Judd, Exec Dir

GWI
Fletcher Kitteridge, CEO
Kerem Durdaq, President and COO

Island Institute
Nick Battista, Chair of the Board
Kendra Jo Grindle

Katahdin Broadband
Kyle Leathers, President

LCI
Randal Manning, VP
Alan Hinsey, Dir. Sales and Marketing

Maine Broadband Coalition
Adam Butcher, Director
Clara McCool

Maine Connectivity Authority
BOD
Tim Schneider, Tilson
Rob Souza, Otelco

Maine Department of Labor
Ruth Anne Haley

Maine Economic and Community Development
Heather Johnson, Dir

Mid-Coast School of Technology
Bobby Deetjen

Mission Broadband
John Dougherty, VP and General Manager

Pioneer Broadband
Tim McAfee, CEO and Chief Engineer

Unitel/Unitek
Larry Sterrs, Chairman of Board

State Representatives
Rep Paige Zeigler
Rep Vicki Doudera
Rep Ann Matlack
Sen Dave Miramont
Rep Seth Berry
Sen Rick Bennet

Federal Representative
Adam Lachman, for Sen Angus King
Chris Rector, for Sen Angus King
James Erwin, for Sen Susan Collins
Cameron O'Brien, for Sen Susan Collins