

*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  
April 14th, 2021  
5:00 p.m.  
Zoom (during COVID-19 Pandemic)**

**Agenda**

**1. Call to Order**

**Participants:**

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

Representatives:

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

Cushing: Craig Currie (SB)(Guest)

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

Lincolntonville: Josh Gerritsen (SB), Jordan Barnett-Parker (SB) David Kinney, (Town Administrator), Steve Koltai (Guest)

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

Owls Head: TBD (SB), Jacob Post (BC)(Guest), Jason Philbrook (BC)(Guest)

Rockland: Ben Dorr, City Council, Tom Luttrell (Town Manager)

Rockport: Denise Munger (SB), John Viehman, Joe Sternowski

Searsmont: Peter Milinazzo (SB) (Guest), Chris Halsted (BC) (Guest)

South Thomaston: Cliff Dacso (Guest)

Thomaston: Bill Hahn (SB), Brian Doyle, Econ Dev Director

Union: Adam Fuller (SB), John Gibbons (BC), Holly Savage (BC)

Camden National Bank: Steve Matteo

Knox County: Leticia Van Vuuren

Note: (SB) means Select Board; (BC) means Broadband Committee.

**2. Action Item – Motion to Approve March 10, 2021 Minutes –**

- Approve March 10, 2021 minutes (see attached)

**3. Updates on Prior Action Items**

- “Homework assignments”
- Guiding Principles – status of Adoption
  - Review the significance and how it distinguishes the project
  - Coalition feedback from town boards and/or broadband committees

**4. Report by the Chair / Vice Chair – Discussion Item**

Chair Hall and Vice-chair Siegel will report on activities since the last MIC meeting.

Legislation / Grant / Funding Meetings with:

Senator Collins Team

Senator King Team

Nick Battista, ConnectME Board Chair

Peggy Schaffer, ConnectME Exec Dir

Rep Paige Ziegler

Outline discussions on:

Interlocal Agreement – round one, June ballot

Letter of Intent

Interlocal Agreement- round two, November ballot

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and how it impacts the MI project and its funding

Individual Town and MIC “State of the Union” meetings

## 5. Action Plan – Discussion Item

For the Coalition to move forward:

- **Legal Structure** – Interlocal agreement, articles of incorporation for Midcoast Internet Development Corporation (MIDC), MIDC by-laws
- **Commitment / Scope** – Letters of intent between participating towns
- **High Level Projections / Mapping** – VetroFiber Mapping (next agenda item)
- **Feasibility** – Pioneer Broadband report / study of network design, rough costs, and basic feasibility (approve and fund)
- **Feasibility +** – Comprehensive feasibility study/engineering design (confirm scope, approve, fund, and select vendor)
- **Funding** – Meet with financial experts, design funding models
- **Marketing** – Marketing plan (draft, approve, fund and select vendor)

## 6. VetroFiber Mapping – Discussion Item

- Web-based mapping, using GPS data
- Cohort2 – 6 month no cost use of platform
- How it works and why it’s important

## 7. MarComm Committee: Branding, Marketing and Communications

John Viehman, Committee Chair, Josh Gerritsen, Matt Siegel, Ann Frenning Kossuth

- LobsterNet, L.O.B.S.T.E.R Net, Local Open Broadband Service for the Entire Region
- Pre-subscription plan
- Advertising and marketing plan/strategy
- Traditional and social media

**8. Other Matters & Adjournment**

**9. Please note: Future / Regular Meetings for 2021 – Information only**

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

May 12<sup>th</sup>

Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> Note this is first Wednesday of June to avoid town elections/annual meetings

Jul 14<sup>th</sup>

Aug 11<sup>th</sup>

Sept 8<sup>th</sup>

Oct 13<sup>th</sup>

Nov 10<sup>th</sup>

Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

Reference guide, names to know, and industry contacts:

Downeast Broadband Utility, Dan Sullivan, President  
Bernstein-Shur, Attorneys at Law, Phil Saucier  
Pioneer Broadband, Tim McAfee, CEO and Chief Engineer  
Island Institute, Nick Battista, Chair of the Board  
ConnectME Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director  
Maine Broadband Coalition, Adam Butcher, Director  
Mission Broadband, John Dougherty, VP and General Manager  
GWI, Kerem Durdaq, President and COO  
LCI, Randal Manning, VP, and Alan Hinsey, Dir. Sales and Marketing

State Representatives  
Rep Paige Zeigler  
Rep Vicki Doudera  
Sen Dave Miramont

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

**“Homework assignment”**

To allow for broad scale system design and build pricing

Turn in Homework Assignment

- a. Road/route miles for each town
- b. Potential customers (est population)
- c. Number of establishments\* aka passings

\*Single drop from network = 1 house, where there may be additional dwelling units

Midcoast Internet website for more information:

[www.midcoastinternet.com](http://www.midcoastinternet.com)