



*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  
May 12th, 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), Steve Koltai

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

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

Rockland: Ben Dorr, City Council, Tom Luttrell, City Manager

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

Searsmont: Peter Milinazzo (SB), Darryl Czuchra (BC), Chris Halsted (BC)

South Thomaston: Jan Gaudio (SB), Cliff Dacso

Southwestern Waldo County: Bob Kurak (SB) (Guest)

Thomaston: Brian Doyle, Econ Dev Director

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

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

Camden National Bank: Steve Matteo

Knox County: Leticia Van Vuuren

Note: SB=Select Board | BC=Broadband Committee

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

Attached draft April 14th, 2021 minutes

**3. Discussion Item – Report by Rockport/Camden**

Chair Hall, Munger and Siegel will report on activities since the last MIC meeting.

- Knox County
  - Letter to County Commissioners
  - Attached is the letter sent by Camden and Rockport
- Maine State Legislative Developments
  - LD 1235 Bond Issue \$100,000,000 (ConnectMe Authority)  
Must: Symmetrical speed to 1g/1g, open access, affordable,  
Opposed: “Last mile at discretion of the applicant”
  - LD 1432 Update Gigabit Fund
  - LD 1484 Enhances authority of ConnectME, in an amendment  
Establishes Maine Connectivity Authority
- Federal funding
  - American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funding update and strategy: county, muni \$129 state funding
  - Treasury Guidance due May 10
  - Seed money and matching grants: How it impacts the MI project and its funding
  - Under Consideration: American Infrastructure plan  
Potentially another \$100 million (as per Senator King)  
Speaking May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am via Zoom
- MIC meetings with:
  - Dan Sullivan DBU
  - Kyle Leathers Katahdin Broadband
  - Town Select Boards, Broadband Committees, and representatives
  - Unitel/UniTek

**4. Discussion Item - Phase One Feasibility Study – Updates**

- Axiom Technologies, report/study of network design, rough costs, and basic feasibility (MIDC to approve, participating towns to fund)
- VetroFiber Mapping Results – high level auto design
- Preliminary MIDC Phase 1 towns: Camden (Charter Municipality), Rockport (Charter Municipality), Rockland, Thomaston, South Thomaston and Owls Head
- Interlocal Agreement – Round one, June ballot | Round 2, August / November

**5. Discussion Item - MIC “Coalition Update”**

Individual Town Updates (3 min each)

North to South:

Northport	Rockport	Owls Head	TBD Vinalhaven (Guest)
Lincolnton	Rockland	Searsmont	Cushing (Guest)
Camden	Thomaston	Union	St. George
Hope	South Thomaston		

## 6. Discussion Item - Next Steps – Discussion Item

For the Coalition to move forward:

### Ahead of the June 8<sup>th</sup> Vote

Part 1: Joint press release from Camden and Rockport

Part 2: “Let’s Connect!” Open House series in

Rockport Opera House – May 19

Camden, Opera House? – Week of May 24

Thomaston? – Week of May 24

Goals: Engage | Inform community | Build trust | Consistent message

## 7. Discussion Item - Finance - Meetings with financial experts, design funding models

- Hybrid model: Including Public Finance Teams, and Commercial Lending Teams  
1<sup>st</sup> Meetings with Bangor Savings (Skip Bates, Danielle Ahern, David Holden)  
Machias, Camden National, The First (Jake Miller)
- Upcoming: Digital Frontiers, Part 1, May 13<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. Panel on municipal and regional networks
- Part 2 (TBA) workshop on funding
- Establish Finance Committee to be up and running after June 8<sup>th</sup> vote with feedback and models from above financial institutions

## 8. Discussion Item - MarComm Committee: Branding, Marketing and Communications

John Viehman, committee head, Josh Gerritsen, Steven Koltai, Cliff Dasco, Joe Sternowkski, Matt Siegel, Ann Frenning Kossuth

Advertising and marketing report – John V.

- Social Media
- Facebook Midcoast Internet page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Midcoast-Internet-102078928721044>
- working on @midcoastinternet, and facebook.com/MidcoastInternet  
Like, use and grow
- Earned Media (Traditional)  
Courier, Free Press, Bangor Daily News, CBS News 13
- Logo – note logo previously shared months ago reworked at top of agenda
- Media creation  
FAQ one sheets  
“Let’s Connect!” campaign  
“Cheaper, faster, better...no taxes”  
PPT slide deck for presentations
- Matt/Josh to do 1<sup>st</sup> UGC Media  
In the community  
Let’s Connect! – expand to all towns

## 9. Discussion Item - Website Update – Discussion Item

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

## 10. Other Matters & Adjournment

### **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:

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:**

- a. Axiom Technologies  
Mark Ouellette, President and CEO
- b. Bernstein-Shur, Attorneys at Law  
Phil Saucier
- c. ConnectME  
Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director  
Liz Wyman, Attorney, Maine PUC  
Jasmine Bishop, Director Telehealth MaineHealth  
Susan Corbett, Director National Digital Equity Center
- d. Downeast Broadband Utility  
Dan Sullivan
- e. GWI  
Fletcher Kitteridge, CEO  
Kerem Durdaq, President and COO
- f. Island Institute  
Nick Battista  
Kendra Jo Grindle
- g. Katahdin Broadband  
Kyle Leathers, President
- h. LCI  
Randal Manning, VP  
Alan Hinsey, Dir. Sales and Marketing
- i. Maine Broadband Coalition  
Adam Butcher  
Clara McCool
- j. Mission Broadband  
John Dougherty, VP and General Manager

- k. Pioneer Broadband  
Tim McAfee, CEO and Chief Engineer
- l. Unitel/Unitek  
Larry Sterrs, Chairman of Board
- m. State Representatives  
Rep Paige Zeigler  
Rep Vicki Doudera  
Sen Dave Miramont  
Rep Seth Berry  
Sen Rick Bennett
- n. Federal Representative  
Adam Lachman, for Sen Angus King  
Chris Rector, for Sen Angus King