

*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  
June 16th, 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; Lisa Sheprow

Cushing: Craig Currie (SB)(Guest)

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: Jacob Post; Jason Philbrook; Kim Slawson (Guest)

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

Rockport: Denise Munger (SB); Joe Sternowski

Searsmont: Peter Milinazzo (SB); Darryl Czuchra; Chris Halsted (Guest)

South Thomaston: Cliff Dacso; Lynne Cannavan (Guest)

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

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

Union: Adam Fuller (SB); John Gibbons (Guest)

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

Camden National Bank: Steve Matteo

Knox County: Leticia Van Vuuren

**Other Guests:**

David Allen, VP of Network Operations (OTELCO)

Tracy Scheckel, Marketing & Public Relations Manager (OTELCO)

**2. Action Item – Motion to Approve May 12th, 2021 Minutes –**

Minutes for May12th will be forwarded once received.

**3. Report by the Leadership – Discussion Item**

Chair Debra Hall, Denise Munger and Vice Chair Matt Siegel will report on activities since the last MIC meeting, including:

- Voter results
- Strong corporate opposition, disinformation campaigns
- Requests for feasibility study / inclusion in MIC / inclusion in Phase 1

**4. OTELCO Presentation**

Representatives from OTELCO have requested to join us to discuss their expansion plans. This is the opportunity to discuss with them if and how the objectives of our group could be met by OTELCO, specifically, open access, universal access, minimum of 100 symmetrical with 1 Gig symmetrical available to any home or business who request it. **Limit on discussion – 20 minutes.**

## 5. MIDC Update, Regional Utility – Discussion Item

Next steps:

Phase One Feasibility Study – Updates

- Legal structure update / timing
- Axiom Technologies feasibility study / network design
- Pre-subscription / ascertain take rate

## 6. Project Funding Updates

Seed Money (public and private investment):

Funding steps and timetable

- ConnectME Planning Grant  
Application filed
- Knox County Commissioners Meeting  
June 8<sup>th</sup> Review  
Follow-up letter to County Commissioners

Maine State legislature Updates

Guiding/pending legislation

- LD 1235 - Bond Issue \$100,000,000 (ConnectMe Authority)
- LD 1432 - Update Gigabit Fund
- LD 1484 - Enhances ConnectME, in an amendment  
Establishes Maine Connectivity Authority  
Federal funding
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funding update
- On the horizon (maybe): American Infrastructure Plan  
Potentially another \$100 million (as per Senator King)

## 7. MIC “Coalition Update”

Individual Town Updates (3 min each). North to South:

Northport	Rockport	Owls Head	TVinalhaven (Guest)
Lincolnville	Rockland	TBD Searsmont (Guest)	
Camden	Thomaston	Union	
Hope	South Thomaston	Cushing	

## 8. Finance

Digital Frontiers (MBC), panel on muni utility and their funding models

[To watch Digital Frontiers Part One](#)

[To watch Digital Frontiers Part Two](#)

**\*\*Establish Finance Committee**

With feedback and models from above financial institutions

**9. MarComm Committee: Branding, Marketing and Communications**

Josh Gerritsen, Steven Koltai, Cliff Dasco, Joe Sternowski, Matt Siegel, Ann Frenning  
Kossuth

Marketing: Ground campaign, rack cards and doorknobs

Public outreach: Let's Connect Open House in Thomaston

Social Media: Facebook Midcoast Internet page

<https://www.facebook.com/Midcoast-Internet-102078928721044>

Earned Media Resources: Courier Dan, Susan; Free Press; Bangor Daily News Lauren

Now available: MI Two pages, FAQ one sheets, PPT slide pack for presentations

Next up: Media creation "Let's connect" campaign

"Cheaper, faster, better...no taxes"

\*\*Committee seeks new members and a committee chair

**10. New business**

**11. 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:

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:**

Axiom Technologies

Mark Ouellette, President and CEO

Bernstein-Shur, Attorneys at Law

Phil Saucier

ConnectME

Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director

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 and Dan Pittman

GWI

Fletcher Kitteridge  
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

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  
Sen Dave Miramont

Federal Representatives  
Adam Lachman, for Sen Angus King  
Chris Rector, for Sen Angus King