

TO: Mahoosuc town selectmen and town managers, Oxford County Commissioners and Administrator
FROM: Mahoosuc Community Broadband Committee
RE: Report from Sept. 29 Mahoosuc Community Broadband Committee
DATE: October 1, 2021

Thank you for reviewing the Casco Bay Advisors report and responding to the questions that were raised to help guide decision making to improve internet service for residents and businesses in the Mahoosuc region. Attached is a copy of the meeting minutes and below are highlights of the September 29 meeting of the Mahoosuc Community Broadband Committee with key questions for the towns and County highlighted.

Pursue Scenario B. Based on input from participating communities, the committee has identified a preference for Scenario B (fiber build out with FirstLight excluding existing fiber to the home) as a basis for further work. The committee will seek to contract additional technical assistance from Casco Bay Advisors and actively engage conversations with First Light and with Spectrum to further develop and refine realistic implementation options.

Committee structure and decision making.

- To ensure clarity moving forward, following is a proposed charter statement for the Committee. Please confirm support for this charter or provide suggested adjustments:
 - *The Mahoosuc Community Broadband Committee is composed of town leaders and stakeholders from the communities of Woodstock, Greenwood, Bethel, Newry, and Gilead, and the unorganized territories of Albany Township and Milton Plantation. The Committee's purpose is to work on behalf of these communities to develop and recommend specific strategies for securing affordable, universal, reliable and future-ready broadband service. The Committee is empowered by participating communities to engage with internet service providers (ISPs) and other technical advisors to produce plans, budgets, and funding strategies for consideration and action by town select boards and County government.*
- The Committee proposes that each town will have one vote in decision-making by the Committee itself. It further understands that any formal agreements or financial commitments related to broadband infrastructure expansion require review and approval by participating communities. Please confirm support for this approach or provide suggested adjustments.
- While the Committee is open to broad participation, for efficiency we propose that each town name two representatives who are designated to vote on Committee decisions on behalf of the town. Below is a list of Committee members and the town each represents. Please confirm or adjust the authorized voting representatives for your town.

Working 9-month timeline and key decision-points for the towns.

- A timeline with anticipated grant funding deadlines and decision-making, Town/County budget cycles and related deadlines was discussed.
- Towns are asked to provide dates for 2022 town budget meetings and town meetings when that information is available.

Proposed voting town representatives:

Art Marshall (Albany)	Theresa Dougherty (Greenwood)
Steve Smith (Albany)	Steve Wight (Newry)
Sarah Vedella (Milton Plantation)	Amy Bernard (Newry)
Jeff Martin (Bethel)	Vern Maxfield (Woodstock)
Michele Varuolo Cole (Bethel)	Marcel Polak (Woodstock)
Deb Walther (Gilead)	
Freeman Corriveau (Gilead)	
Kim Sparks (Greenwood)	