

## 2022-12-13 - EFCC Minutes

### Participants

#### Voting members

Ken Burke - Vice Chair/Secretary, [kburke12@comcast.net](mailto:kburke12@comcast.net)

Melissa Mitchell - [mmitchell@shead.org](mailto:mmitchell@shead.org)

Paul Sheehy - [psheehy@cloud-works.net](mailto:psheehy@cloud-works.net)

Mark Wigley - Chair, [eastportmark@gmail.com](mailto:eastportmark@gmail.com)

Joshua Nicholson - [furtim@gmail.com](mailto:furtim@gmail.com)

#### Non-Voting members

Elaine Abbott - Community & Economic Development Planner, Sunrise County Economic Council, [eabbott@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:eabbott@sunrisecounty.org)

Ann Bellefleur - Selectman, Perry, [perryselectman@gmail.com](mailto:perryselectman@gmail.com)

Kate Devonshire - Eastport City Manager, [citymanager@eastport-me.gov](mailto:citymanager@eastport-me.gov)

Ray Guilmette - Perry, [rayguilmette7530@gmail.com](mailto:rayguilmette7530@gmail.com)

Amy McDonald - Charlotte, Chair, [amy.mcdonald@sawyermcdonald.com](mailto:amy.mcdonald@sawyermcdonald.com)

Michael Morse - Chair, Eastport Economic Development Committee, [Eastportmorse@gmail.com](mailto:Eastportmorse@gmail.com)

Jeanne Peacock - Council Liaison, [jpeacock@ocean-aqua.com](mailto:jpeacock@ocean-aqua.com)

Debi Pride - Charlotte, [iluvsebaggo@gmail.com](mailto:iluvsebaggo@gmail.com)

Chris Waite - Sipayik Consultant, Four Directions Maine, [cwaite@fourdirectionsmaine.org](mailto:cwaite@fourdirectionsmaine.org)

Lora Whelan - Quoddy Tides, [whlnlbl@gmail.com](mailto:whlnlbl@gmail.com)

*Note: Invitees marked with a hyphen were unable to participate.*

### Guests

Dan Sullivan - Technical Consultant, Sunrise County Economic Council, [daniel@cathancelake.com](mailto:daniel@cathancelake.com)

### Meeting Admin

#### Eastport Fiber Connectivity Committee

City Hall, 22 Washington Street

Eastport, Maine 04631

Meeting Date: 13 December 2022

Meeting Time: 0900 - 1030

Meeting Location: Port Authority (downstairs)

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 840 7023 6662

### Call to Order

## Agenda items:

1. Adjustment to the agenda.
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Grant request update
4. Facebook update
5. Review of major take-aways from MCA Friday meeting
6. Debrief of call with Tim McAfee of Pionner on survey options/costs
7. Agenda for next meeting

## Adjustments to the Agenda

1. Introduce Joshua Nicholson, new committee member

## Review Prior Minutes

1. No further changes
2. Approved

## Old Business

1. None

## New Business

1. Joshua Nicholson: New member
  - Eastport resident, Quoddy Villiage
  - Works remotely, VMWare software developer
  - Bought in 2015 - long-term plan. Going back and forth. Full-time with pandemic
  - Committee vote: Approved
    - Jeanne Peacock will submit his name for approval at tomorrow's council meeting
2. Grant requests:
  - MCA Get Ready - Awarded \$10,000
    - Who's getting the packet to complete the process
      - Mark will track it down
      - Council will need to accept it
      - Kate would be signatory
      - Ken and Mark will talk to City Treasurer
    - Mark has left messages with MCA about acceptance packet status - no response
  - Island Institute - Meeting 1 Dec, decision being finalized
    - Nothing yet, Ken will reach out to Christa Thorpe for an update
    - Checks cut 14 Dec
    - Send response to council
  - Sipayik has received their Get Ready and - moved to end of meeting.

### 3. Facebook:

- Underway, focus for Ken Burke

### 4. MCA takeaways - Elaine Abbott

- Ken Burke: I sent my notes, MCA will be publishing the video recordings
- Elaine Abbott:
  - 4Directions and SCEC were awarded rural tribal partner grants - digital literacy and inclusion
  - Elaine is now full-time on broadband
  - Details are being ironed out
  - Melissa Mitchell is Youth Voices core partner
- Tasks:
  - Infrastructure planning, implementation, digital equity and literacy
  - Contributing to state-wide plan
  - Chris Waite is doing tribal communities
  - Jeanne Peacock: Will you have additional resources for Washington county for literacy?
  - Elaine Abbott: One resource for Washington county, Rachel Williams, lives in Eastport
  - Dan Sullivan: Highlights
    - They lost his slide deck at MCA,
    - MCA shifted focus, RDOF issue is causing them to be more selective
    - Eastport doesn't have RDOF conflict
    - Going as a group of communities is a plus to MCA (Perry, Sipayik, Eastport)
    - **Sertex** (<https://www.sertexbroadband.com/>), from CT, is meeting with Tim McAfee (Pioneer) and Dan Sullivan to discuss possibilities and details, willing to come to Maine to implement
    - RDOF bid by CCI/Consolidated Communications has put a drag on funding for Charlotte implementation
    - Dan Sullivan talking with CCI to see if they'll release the hold
    - RDOF bid winners only have to build out 95% of awarded RDOF towns - some will by definition be left out, and grant funds will likely be unavailable at that time
    - Elaine Abbott: Perry, Eastport, and Sipayik aren't hampered by RDOF awards to third parties
    - Chris Waite: You can go "through" an RDOF-locked community, but can't serve them
    - Redzone Wireless was making some pretty outrageous claims about wireless connectivity
    - Misinformation about wireless reliability
    - Get ducks in a row to get in the queue to get build grants
    - Spectrum is providing misinformation in Caribou, causing a lot of friction

4. Mark Wigley: Pioneer (Tim McAfee) agreed to do a "desktop" survey to provide working costs for January's city council workshop

- How soon would city have to begin to repay a loan/bond?
- Elaine Abbott: Work with the banks to sort this
- Dan Sullivan: Establish line of credit, then go to long-term note
- Banks are very interested in helping towns with broadband
- **Start talking with banks NOW**, include bond options. **Action**
- Elaine Abbott: You need an attorney who structures the bonds
- Ken Burke: We should ask council permission, ask for partnership with city treasurer. **Action**

### 5. Dan Sullivan: Axiom is now working to get bond money, will pay back some amount of money to a town if they (Axiom) are the **sole provider**

- Talking with Tim McAfee, an inspector came to talk with him for 3 hours about Indian township build

- Corning has insinuated the insertion of a "strand" support cable, Corning ice-load specification. Maine considered "heavy". No fiber run over 150 feet.
- Tim McAfee waiting for Spector and MCA response.
- MCA is the source of the possible new requirement (use of strand)
- Chris Waite: May require an 8-wire to support the drop to home/business. Or customer owns the drop. Not likely to go anywhere.

#### 6. Jeanne Peacock:

- A speaker said Maine is in the top ten of states (middle of the top ten) for broadband connectivity efforts
- Ken Burke: One of the groups mentioned they don't provide anything but Internet connectivity. Customer subscribes for other streaming services.
  - Dan Sullivan: Death knell of the cable industry
  - Elaine Abbott: Podcast, POTS and PANS (<https://potsandpansbyccg.com/>), Doug Dawson, CCG Consulting - millions dropping cable
    - A Repeat Performance for Cable TV 3Q22
    - NDEC has a "Cutting the Cord" class to teach people how to do this
  - Dan Sullivan: As a consumer, buy only what you want to use

#### 7. Elaine Abbott will send out the conference video links once published. **Action**

#### 8. Broadband Bootcamp is still largely up-to-date.

1. SCEC Broadband Bootcamp: <https://sunrisecounty.org/community/broadband/>

#### 9. Washington County fund communication

- Address/send to Betsy Fitzgerald
- Include all of the time in the to
- Ken will work with Kate Devonshire to get commissioner names
- Kate Devonshire: Recommends it's from council
  - Elaine Abbott: Should be peer-to-peer, Council to Commissioners
    - Typically from City of Eatport, signed by President of city council
- Kate Devonshire: Sending adjusted letter, to commissioners, from president city council

## Open Forum

1. None

## Set Next Meeting Date & Agenda

Date/time: 20 Dec, 0900, Port Authority 1st floor

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. Adjustment to the agenda.
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Island Institute grant request update
4. Facebook update

5. Council response to:

- Washington County Commissioner letter
- Council response to January workshop
- Confirmation of Joshua Nicolson as committee member

6. Identify top ten priorities, with deliverables, for first of year focus.

## Administrative Follow-up

- Minutes to EFCC members for review, comment, and approval
- Minutes to city after EFCC approves
- Agenda to Ella C. Kowal, City Clerk, [ekowal@eastport-me.gov](mailto:ekowal@eastport-me.gov)
  - Posted minimum three days prior to meeting, best practice send to Ella the day of *this* meeting

## Action Items

1. Send email address, council Fiber presentation, Perry possible members to Ray G. Action: Ken Burke.
2. Add Washington County commissioner names to draft letter for council, Eastport City Council president name on bottom. Action: Kate Devonshire.

## Adjourn

Time: 1000