

Readsboro Broadband and Cell phone Committee

Strategic Plan

Introduction and back ground

This strategic plan is being developed by the Readsboro Broadband and Cell phone Committee (BCC) in order to form a disciplined approach to facilitating access to Broadband and Cell phone service throughout the town of Readsboro over the next one to five years.

The Readsboro Broadband and Cell Phone Committee members are the following:

Robert Marechal – Chairman, Rebecca Stone- Town administrative assitant, and Omar Smith- resident

The Readsboro BCC was formed in late January 2016 after a public meeting in town regarding broadband and cell phone access, or lack thereof. The meeting included State Representative Laura Sibilia, State Senator Brian Campion, Vermont Department of Public Service members Clay Purvis and Sunni Erikson, Readsboro select board and many town residents. It was highly recommended by state officials there to form a committee that can pursue these issues in a structured and disciplined manner. Volunteers were identified and the committee was formed. The BCC is receiving support from town officials, state DPS Connectivity Development as well as state representatives and town residents.

Vision Statement

To facilitate the opportunity for all households in Readsboro to have connectivity to High speed internet and Cellular telephone service.

Mission Statement

The community of Readsboro is an underserved and high cost area and our goal is to expand on our telecommunications infrastructure through coverage initiatives for all Readsboro residents, identifying the gaps in existing coverage, available providers, existing service issues and build strategies to address all of these issues, including potential funding opportunities.

Goals

- 1) Use survey data, information from Fairpoint, and information on existing cable routing to determine boundaries of existing DSL service from Fairpoint. This should include (as much as possible) the limits of the different speeds available (IE 25MBPS, 15, 10, 7, etc). Map this data on a street map of Readsboro to depict the various Fairpoint coverage areas and gaps in town. Also include any known planned upgrade project areas.
- 2) Use survey data and local testing (if available) to determine coverage for existing cell service from providers other than CoverageCo and complete a similar map to (1) above for Cellular service in Readsboro.
- 3) If possible, complete random testing of VTel signal with support from Phil Edelstein to better understand the area that VTel might have service in town.
- 4) Use the above (if any service is verified to be available in town) to map VTel coverage in Readsboro (similar to 1 above for fairpoint).
- 5) Defined goals such as our survey results that we already partially completed, identifying the gap areas and possible solutions or opportunities for solutions.

Objectives

(These will be our specific plans and strategies for the various gap areas identified.)

Currently we know of a few general areas (zones) that appear to have no or very limited high speed internet access. I will try to define/describe those zones.

The first zone I will describe as the "North Hill" zone. Geographically this area is the east central part of Readsboro. Starting at the "4 corners" intersection of King Hill, Potter Hill, Bailey Hill and Freezing hole roads, this zone continues north on Freezing Hole and west on Bailey Hill to the ends of both of these roads. Fairpoint provides basic telephone service to this zone but most of the homes here are beyond the reach of reasonable DSL service. This zone may also stretch southward along Potter hill to some extent and also include residences on Ruba drive.

The second zone I will describe as the “Howe Pond” zone. Geographically this area is the central part of Readsboro. Starting at the intersection of Howe Pond and Ross this zone continues northwest along Howe pond road to the end at Readsboro Falls. It also includes homes on Case Lane, Daubneys Drive and TH 5.

The third zone I will describe as the “West Hill” zone. Geographically this area is the southwest corner of Readsboro. Starting at the intersection of West Hill and Johnny cake Hill this zone continues southwest along West Hill dive to the end of that road. It also includes all of Turner road, Wiley Mountain drive and homes on Johnny cake hill lane. It may also include the westerly end of Smith drive.

There may also be some isolated “fringe” spots in town such as the south end of Shippee and Bill T roads, the southeast end of Bosley Hill and perhaps some sections of VT RT 100 between the village of Readsboro and the hamlet of Heartwellville. More research and data is needed to define these fringe areas.

Action Plan

(Our prioritized actions to facilitate our goals and objectives.)

Performance Measures

This will include tracking of how we are doing, documents or maps depicting results.

Appendix

This will include items such as our survey results document, maps of coverage areas and “gap” areas, progress tracking documents, etc.