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Date: March 13, 2010 5:57:15 PM EST
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Subject: **[NNAC] Summary and Key Points from Northborough "Cable" Committee meeting 3/3/10 and Google RFP status meeting 3/11/10**
Reply-To: NNAC@yahoogroups.com

This email summarizes two meetings in March

- one is our regularly scheduled monthly meeting 3/3/10
- the second was a followup focused on the Google high-speed network Northborough RFP planning.

Both meetings took place in Kathy's office room A129 at Algonquin High School from 7-9 PM.

1- Participants at both meetings:

- Jim Ares
- Kathy Dalgliesh
- Jeff Murphy (3/3/10 meeting only)
- Dick Swee

- Bruce DeGraaf - non- member who is applying for membership in committee

- Dave Mitchell (3/3/10 meeting only) - invited guest and founder of Connectedbits <http://www.connectedbits.com>

2- Connectedbits and "citizen participation" applications (3/3/10 meeting)

Dave explained how his company has developed applications for towns, such as Boston, that are used for interaction with residents. The Boston application is an iPhone application that allows people to submit problems to the city (like potholes) directly from their iPhone and get responses from the town.

We discussed the possibilities of having 2-way applications that can be used along with cable access channels. One example was the ability to vote or feedback to selectmen or town meetings on issues in real time as they are running on cable access channels.

3- Google High-Speed network Proposal (see Google WEB page for background <http://www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi>) at both meetings

Bruce DeGraaf submitted a response to Google as an individual on behalf of Northborough.

A confirmation from Google was received (confirmation code aghmaWJlcnJmaXITCxILQXBwbGljYXRpb24Yxu99DA)

We discussed the response and also what else we should or could be doing. We agreed to collect additional information and then meet again on 3/11/10 to review status.

Updates at the 3/11/10 meeting:

Bruce found it difficult to get responses from Google but was able to talk to a contact at Google. Some ideas were generated around defining an application for wireless distribution and support of emergency services over a high-speed network.

We reviewed a T & G article that showed Westborough and Shrewsbury submitting proposals to Google. See newspaper article below:

There does not seem to be much support within the Northborough administration for a Google RFP response. But we do now have one on file, thanks to Bruce's initiative.

None of us was very optimistic about getting anything to happen with Google. It was also a little disappointing that the town was not more open to some new and creative ideas.

4- Charter and Verizon Payment Reconciliation - this is an issue

Kathy received a letter from Charter asking the town to reconcile subscribers payments for each company and pay back any amount due to Charter. This letter was NOT consistent with the procedure outlined in

signed Charter contract. The process needs to be clarified as a Charter responsibility (per contract) and it should be clear that the town does not have to pay money back to Charter.

Dick Swee
Chairman

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Google Internet project sought

Town applies for high-speed fiber optics

By Priyanka Dayal
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

WESTBORO — The town is the latest community to apply to a Google pilot program to make Internet access more than 100 times faster than what most Americans use today.

Selectmen voted on Tuesday to send information to Google so Westboro can be considered for the program. Google has said it will choose one or more trial locations across the country to test its ultra-high speed broadband networks.

Shrewsbury and Worcester have also applied to the program.

Selectman Timothy A. Dodd was the first to suggest Westboro should apply. With the board's consent, Mr. Dodd will lead a group to work on and submit an application before the March 26 deadline. He is looking for help from members of the public.

Although selectmen had many questions about how the pilot program would work, Mr. Dodd said those questions would be answered in the future if Google

decides to
consider Westboro.

“I think it would help businesses be more competitive ... This is an incredible opportunity,” Selectman Leigh A. Emery said.

Mark Stockman, the town’s information technology director, said having Google set up an experimental fiber network in Westboro would be great publicity. Businesses and other organizations that have access to this kind of bandwidth through dedicated fiber optics pay a high price, and Google could provide a cheaper alternative, he said.

Selectman Rod B. Jané, who initially raised several questions about the program, said ultra-high- speed Internet could be a selling point for businesses that are thinking of coming to Westboro.

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