

Town of Wiscasset
Broadband Committee Minutes
December 23, 2021

Present: Carla Dickstein, Evan Goodkowsky, Marty Fox, Dusty Jones

The committee discussed a draft budget that it would present to the Select Board on January 4th as follows:

Consulting work under “Study of unserved/underserved” (\$3,000) - The committee thought that Axiom Technologies’ previous 2019 study of Wiscasset that was done for the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission was a solid foundation. However, to compete for grants, the town needs to do an additional gap study to specifically identify the E911 addresses of “unserved” premises that cannot access broadband. The committee will also look at the study that Southport Island did.

Digital Equity Plan (\$2,500) - Dusty suggested amending funding for the Digital Equity Plan, to reduce Wiscasset’s commitment to \$1200, assuming Woolwich and Dresden also participate. Additional towns only cost another \$500 each bringing the total to \$3500

Staff Support (\$3,000) - grant preparation, community education, digital literacy/affordability. More detail on specific tasks performed is needed on the staff support line.

Town Survey (\$1,500) – includes option of mailing survey)

Total request to the town - \$5,000- \$7,000; additional funding application to Island Institute

The Committee then discussed the vision for why we need this project and service including attracting and retaining businesses and workers doing remote work, and telehealth. A full list of benefits will be reviewed at the next meeting and presented to the Select Board.

Mark Ouellette from Axiom and Christa Thorpe from the Island Institute will also attend the January 4th meeting and can answer questions from the board.