

## SPECIAL BRIDGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING AGENDA

**DATE:** Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

**PLACE:** Downstairs Meeting Room; Municipal Complex (10 Iredale Street)

### VIRTUAL MEETING INVITATION INSTRUCTIONS

*Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.*

#### Invitation Link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/953023373>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

United States (Toll Free): [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073)

United States: [+1 \(646\) 749-3129](tel:+16467493129)

**Access Code:** 953-023-373

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Correspondence, Presentations, and Other Pertinent Information
4. New Business
  - a. 2020 Tax Commitment (Documentation will be available at the meeting)
  - b. Bridgton Broadband Working Group
5. Old Business
6. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items (Each Speaker **may** be limited to 3 minutes.)
7. Dates for the Next Board of Selectman's Meeting  
July 28, 2020
8. Adjourn

## **Linda LaCroix**

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**From:** Linda LaCroix  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 8:35 AM  
**To:** Glenn "Bear" R. Zaidman; Georgiann M Fleck; Kelly Gardner; william holmes  
**Cc:** Robert "Bob" Peabody, Jr.  
**Subject:** Bridgton Broadband Team

Good morning,

Thank you all for volunteering to join me in working through connectivity issues for our town, and especially for your willingness to participate in the Boot Camp! My hope is that we gain a better understanding of issues and options from Boot Camp, while our regional broadband group works through what may be best for Bridgton, Naples, Denmark and Harrison. Below is a list of our working group with email information.

Bridgton Broadband Working Group

**Glenn (Bear) Zaidman**, Town of Bridgton Selectman, [selectmanzaidman@bridgtonmaine.org](mailto:selectmanzaidman@bridgtonmaine.org)  
**Georgiann Fleck**, Town of Bridgton Deputy Town Manager, [gmflex@bridgtonmaine.org](mailto:gmfleck@bridgtonmaine.org)  
**Linda LaCroix**, Town of Bridgton Community Development Director, [llacroix@bridgtonmaine.org](mailto:llacroix@bridgtonmaine.org)  
**Doug and Kelly Gardner**, Bridgton Residents, [blackeyedpea88@gmail.com](mailto:blackeyedpea88@gmail.com)  
**William Homes**, Bridgton Business Owner, [whh.hdco@gmail.com](mailto:whh.hdco@gmail.com)

In the coming days we will be receiving final details for the Boot Camp. I am also working on scheduling our next meeting with our regional group, at which we will finalize the framework for that effort.

Thank you again and I look forward to working with you all!

Best,  
Linda

**Linda L. LaCroix**  
*Community Development Director*  
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(207) 595-3560 (cell)



# Broadband Boot Camp 2020

## Learning Modules



The Maine West Broadband Boot Camp is intended to help people in rural communities organize to address the vital challenge of expanding high speed internet access and adoption. It is anchored by 7 strategic learning modules and designed specifically to provide participants with the knowledge, tools and ongoing support needed to engage their communities and take action. The program will run from late July through December 2020. Learning modules include:

1. **Orientation, Broadband 101, and Community Engagement.** This session will introduce participants to state resource organizations including Maine Broadband Coalition, ConnectMaine Authority, and the Island Institute. Participants will learn about common broadband terminology and goal setting, and strategies for engaging community stakeholders and leadership.
2. **Benefits of Use & Return on Investment.** This module will provide training and tools for assessing the near- and long-term benefits of broadband access and adoption – from expanded business opportunities to improved student learning, health outcomes, municipal cost savings, real estate values and more. Participants will learn how to compare the cost of public investment against these widespread benefits to calculate the potential ROBI, or Return on Broadband Investment.
3. **Digital Literacy, Inclusion and Adoption.** Realizing the benefits of high-speed internet service requires widespread adoption by residents, businesses, schools, municipal offices and more. This session will introduce building knowledge about how to use high speed internet connectivity across a range of activities, as ways of ensuring affordability and access by all community members.
4. **Models for Providing High Speed Internet Service.** This module will explore options for expanding broadband infrastructure – from working with new or existing internet service providers, to creating town-owned and operated networks and various hybrid approaches. The session will feature specific case studies and introduce different approaches to financing broadband expansion.
5. **Assessing Ownership and Service Options for Your Community.** This module will dive deeper into the details of broadband financing including exploration of potential revenue flows, the importance of “take rate” to successful private or public financing, and role of feasibility studies to identify appropriate technology and business/ownership models.
6. **Get to know your Internet Service Providers.** Representatives from internet service providers serving the Maine West region will share information about their residential and business services, plans for expanding and delivering high-speed internet service in this area, and approaches to community partnerships to accelerate service expansion.
7. **Broadband Funding Resources.** An overview of public and private funding sources and financing options for planning and infrastructure development, including the ConnectMaine Authority, Maine Community Foundation, USDA Rural Development, Northern Border Regional Commission, and more. This session will include a specific focus on Spring 2021 funding and grant deadlines.



## Broadband Boot Camp 2020

*High Speed Internet  
Vital Community Services*



With predicted long-term effects of the coronavirus pandemic likely to intensify demand for universal high-speed internet service, it is more important than ever for rural communities to organize themselves to address this vital challenge.

In response, and building on three years of planning and digital inclusion work, the [Maine West collaborative](#) is offering a new community training and technical assistance program to expand access to and adoption of high speed internet connectivity in the Oxford Hills, Bethel and River Valley areas.

**What:** A free 7-part training and technical assistance program to build community capacity needed to expand availability and utilization of high-speed internet service in the Maine West region – including the Oxford Hills, Bethel Area, and Rumford/River Valley regions. Goals include:

- Build technical understand and community readiness
- Develop partnerships with ISPs and other communities
- Rally community support
- Understand and pursue funding and other resources
- Launch digital infrastructure or literacy efforts

**Who:** The program is designed for community members and town leaders who are motivated to advocate for and support local expansion of high speed internet access and adoption. Organizers are looking for teams of 2-3 people from up to 10 Maine West communities to take part in the program.

**Why:** While there is widespread public support for broadband expansion, competing priorities and limited understanding of technologies, financing strategies, and available resources is preventing many communities from addressing this issue head on. Committed local broadband committees have proven critical to success in communities across Maine and across the nation.

**How Will it Work:** The Broadband Boot Camp will be delivered remotely through a series of webinars and online work sessions that follow the [Community-Driven Broadband Process](#) developed by the Island Institute based on their work with rural Maine island communities. The program will connect learning with action across four capacities:

- **Realize Benefits & Use:** Understand and evaluate your community's potential Return on Broadband Investment across economic, educational, health and municipal services
- **Engage the Community:** Form a working group, assess community needs and interests, identify near- and medium-term digital connectivity priorities

- Assess Technology Options: Evaluate the costs and benefits of various technical approaches to local priorities – from new school computers, to community-wide fiber networks
- Fund Broadband Projects: Identify and pursue direct funding or financing for priority projects through state, federal, local, and philanthropic programs

Broadband Bootcamp work sessions will include opportunities to connect with state and national broadband experts, local Internet Service Providers, funding agencies, and other community leaders from across the Maine West region.

Participants will use the program learning structure to set individualized goals, and complete assignments that advance local priorities. Depending on community readiness, goals could range from securing town meeting support or a small grant, to investing in new school computers, or planning and financing targeted broadband infrastructure projects.

Current plans are to deliver the Broadband Boot Camp remotely – understanding that some participants may need support connecting to online work sessions. Opportunities for in-person sessions or field trips will be evaluated over time based on developments with Covid-19.

**When:** The Maine West Broadband Boot Camp will kick off in mid-July and run through December. Participants will take part in seven 90-minute workshops once or twice per month – depending on final goals and scheduling with content experts.

**Information & Application:** If you're interested in participating in the Broadband Boot Camp, [please follow this link to apply](#). Space is limited and the deadline for applications is Thursday, July 9 at 5:00. For more information, you can also contact Mia Purcell at Community Concepts Finance Corporation: 207-418-0179, [mpurcell@community-concepts.org](mailto:mpurcell@community-concepts.org); or Mike Wilson, at the Northern Forest Center: 603-731-0558; [mwilson@northernforest.org](mailto:mwilson@northernforest.org)

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The Broadband Bootcamp is offered by **Maine West** – a partnership of local and regional groups working to address systemic rural challenges through collaboration across the economic, educational, health, and conservation sectors.

**Bootcamp program partners include:**

