

## Proposed Broadband for Long Island – Article 49

### Frequently asked questions: **Cost of Broadband and Seasonal Service**

This is one of several posts in which we hope to address questions and issues brought forth to the Broadband Committee and from the survey work.

One of the most common questions we received has to do with “**how much will this cost?**” and similar “**can I save money with this?**” There were also several inquiries as to **seasonal rates**.

**First is cost – The Answer - Depends!!** The approximate cost of the basic new high speed Broadband (without any ConnectMaine grants) is shown below. Costs to Long Islanders of future CCI Broadband services will always remain compatible with those offered to other Maine communities, in other words there will be no premium penalty due to our small size.

In order to determine your cost, you need to decide how much speed you want or need; what present services you can eliminate or substitute to save \$\$; what bundles might give you what you want and also save \$\$.

CCI (Consolidated) will be offering a competitive cable network of satellite type options – we will get that info out in a later post. There are more choices than you may realize when you can get your entertainment via Broadband.

Approximate Long Island Consolidated offerings will be  
50/50 Mbps @\$67.95;  
100/100Mbps @\$82.95;  
150/150Mbps@\$100.96. Higher speeds are available.  
(These rates are without grant assistance – could be \$5 lower)

For comparison: Cranberry Isles Broadband (Axiom) –  
25/5Mbps@\$64.99;  
50/10Mbps@\$74.99;  
100/20Mbps@\$99.99.

For comparison: Cliff Island Broadband (Axiom)  
25/5@\$79.99  
50/10@\$89.99  
100/20@\$109.99

For comparison: Comcast/Xfinity on mainland:  
\$200/month for telephone, mid-tier TV, 300/10 Mbps Internet  
Internet only – 100Mbps@\$80  
300Mbps@\$98

Questions 6,7, 8 of the survey attempted to find out what Long Islanders were paying now for services, but the results were hard to quantify since some of you have bundles of phone/satellite/Internet in different combinations and many did not add in the cost of satellite packages. The range was from \$30 for basic local landline phone only to \$185 for higher end packages with satellite.

### **The question of seasonal rates.**

Any other municipal infrastructure project (schools, roads, fire trucks, floats, etc.) would normally be funded by taxes levied on all property owners regardless of use. This project uses no tax funds.

Our past research showed that building our own Broadband system could have added \$0.80 or more to the mil rate (\$240/year for a \$300K property). The proposed \$10-\$15/month infrastructure fee is to help pay off the monthly loan to build this system and will depend on a reasonable subscriber base. It will be full equal service for all locations year round.

The infrastructure loan payment (\$517,000) is due whether you use the system for 3 months or 12 months and there is no savings to the Broadband system when someone disconnects for the winter. In reality, ever more seasonal Long Islanders are and will be using their Internet year round for monitoring and security systems, Go-pro cameras, longer season use of homes, etc.

For the three Island communities noted above: Islesboro has no seasonal discount. Everyone pays a flat annual rate but it is heavily tax supported by all property owners whether they subscribe or not. On both the Cranberry Isles and Cliff Island there is a seasonal discount of 15% if you pay for the entire year.

We continue to discuss options with CCI to determine a fair rate , but please note that participating in the Broadband service is not required.