

Broadband Zoom Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 6:30.

The original presentation scheduled for this date by Consolidated's Broadband Team has been postponed until Tuesday, June 9 also at 6:30. Our committee wanted to give an open overview of the project to follow-up the materials we have previously sent out via LICA listserve and the Town Report and give a chance for your additional questions. Due to the challenge of a safe and healthy Town Meeting this year, any issues that we can clear up now to reduce debate time at the Town Meeting will be appreciated.

Here are the remaining questions we have received from the Survey work and the follow-up request from last week. Please forward additional questions you might have to mlongreene2@aol.com for our Broadband Committee to seek answers.

More Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. - What about power outages?

A. - Your home Internet will go down. If you have generator power, you will have Internet but as we have seen with extended outages (days) the backup batteries at the sub stations (RTs) run down in a day or so. We are awaiting further information from CCI engineer on exactly what and how will work or not with a new fiber system without power. Cliff Island has installed a backup generator and we will explore further. So far as telephone is concerned most residents now have a cell phone to bypass the power outage problem.

Q. - Why not wait for the satellite systems being launched?

A. - Satellite Internet has many weather and terrain issues so far as providing dependent service to all. Whatever is coming with the Musk Starlink satellite Internet is still going to involve substantial local equipment by you to utilize it. Satellite has delays in transmission, data caps and other issues that are not a problem with the proposed Broadband fiber system.

Q. - What about wireless systems on phone poles?

A. - Same as above. Long Island terrain and trees and rain and snow have the potential to make this not available to some parts of the Island and subject to interruption in others.

Q: "I keep hearing about 5G. Would that be a better choice for us?"

A: "We looked into it and contacted Verizon Wireless, which has begun to deploy 5G for high-speed residential Internet and mobile Internet in some cities. The primary focus for 5G deployments is big cities. Portland is not even on Verizon's schedule, and rural areas

like Long Island will probably not see 5G for a decade. You can find a detailed report comparing 5G and Fiber for Long Island on the BBEC Web page (<http://broadband.townoflongisland.us/>)

Q: "Will this increase my property tax?"

A: NO. Some towns have funded their broadband system construction with bonds paid back through an increase in property tax. Islesboro, for example, increased their property tax rate by about \$1.30 to cover the bond payments. We have chosen to fund our bond repayment by including a small (\$10-15 per month) fee on the bills of broadband subscribers. If you choose not to subscribe to the broadband service, you won't have to pay for the construction.

Q – How reliable will the new system be?

A- It will be new (compared to the 100 year old copper system) and is the gold standard for communications systems

Q – What is the future capacity?

A – Nearly unlimited. This is like bringing a massively oversized water pipe to your home.

Q – I heard that Chebeague’s Broadband system is unreliable and expensive?

A – Chebeague does not have a Broadband system. There is a small part of the island with fiber service so we cannot identify the source of that complaint. Chebeague is looking eagerly at what we are proposing to do.

Q. – How many families have moved to Cliff Island since they put in their Broadband?

A – Their Broadband has only been in since October. The desire of most of the Cliff community to improve chances of keeping people on Cliff and to have economic and other opportunities for the future drove their decisions to raise local private funds and investment for this project. Whether someone decides to move to Cliff or Long in the future is a complex mix of factors, not the least of which is ability to earn a living and find a place to live. It is probably safe to say that lack of Broadband over time will lessen future economic options and will cause some folks to leave Long Island and discourage others from coming here to live.

Q – Will everyone on the Island have the same speed regardless of location?

A – Everyone will have equal access to the same products and speeds.

Q – What has been the experience of other islands that have done this?

A – Have not heard any negative feedback. From the Islands Coalition:
“A lifesaver during present pandemic.” “Like going from dial up”

Q Will new cables be added to our poles?

A Yes – they will be strung Island wide and in the same location as existing copper lines. A new fiber cable will be strung from the nearest pole to your home if you decided to subscribe. Fiber will be run to all poles regardless of whether you hook up or not.