

Communication and Technologies Committee
March 9, 2020
Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:28 p.m. In attendance were Committee members George Grohs, Clark Stivers, Matt Hochman, and Todd Edgar. Staff present were Stan Harmon and Steve Cornell. Visitors representing the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce present were Alf Anderson, Chris Graten, Eben Salvatore, and Nina St Germain. Brian Leopold of Casco Bay Advisors joined by phone.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no comments from the public.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Communications and Technologies Committee on February 3, 2020, were unanimously approved.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as posted.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Website Redirect Discussion

Representatives of the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce inquired about redirecting visitors to the Chamber of Commerce website (visitbarharbor.com) after successfully logging in to town-operated wifi hotspots. Currently, upon successful login, visitors are simply connected to the Internet without any redirect. The Chamber of Commerce believes that their website would provide information that would be of use to Bar Harbor visitors who may not find that information readily otherwise.

A technical discussion about the effectiveness of such redirects ensued with acknowledgement that varying combinations of devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.), operating systems (iOS, Android, Windows, Linux, etc.), and web browsers (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, etc.) may behave differently.

Committee member Matt Hochman reminded everyone that there are businesses that are not members of the Chamber of Commerce and so, for the sake of impartiality, perhaps a town-managed page or other more neutral option could provide that information.

After additional deliberation, the Committee chair, George Grohs, asked if Chamber of Commerce representatives would mock-up the content to which they would like visitors to be redirected. The Chamber of Commerce representatives agreed to do so and will present their design at a future committee meeting. The topic was tabled until that time.

B. Fiber Engineering Study Preparation for Town Council Meeting

The committee discussed with Brian Lippold, of Casco Bay Advisors, the upcoming presentation on March 17 to the Town Council about the Fiber Engineering Study recommendations. It was confirmed that the Town Council will receive a packet with the written recommendation in advance of the meeting. At the meeting, Brian will present a five- to ten-minute overview explaining the opportunities and remain to answer any questions the Town Council may have.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS: The next meeting of the CTC will be on Monday, April 27, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. (as the third Monday in April is Patriots Day and the town offices are closed).

VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: No comments or requests for future agenda items were made.

VIII. ADJOURN: At 4:29 pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Todd Edgar, Secretary, on March 11, 2020.
