

# Broadband Committee

The Wiscasset Broadband Committee was formed in September 2021 to examine the process of improving broadband internet service and providers in Wiscasset. The committee began working collaboratively with the Towns of Dresden and Woolwich to examine minimizing costs and to enhance the issue regionally. The Town of Wiscasset provided \$7,500 from ARPA funds which was matched by a planning grant from the Island Institute. In Summer 2022 the joint committees developed a Request for Proposal for a feasibility study. There were three responses to the RFP from:

Mission Broadband for \$20,330

Hometown Fiber for \$9,995

Axiom Technologies for \$7,000

The committee recommended working with Axiom Technologies which is a Maine based company with experience in fiber network design, construction, and operation. The feasibility study conducted by Axiom looked at the prospect of building a municipally owned network as well as working with private providers and the feasibility of either scenario under the current grant programs operated by the Maine Connectivity Authority. In December of 2022, each of the three towns was awarded a Get Ready grant for \$10,000 in value of services. The Get Ready program is administered by the Maine Connectivity Authority and will provide technical, legal, and planning assistance.

Currently the State of Maine defines a premise being “served” as having access to service of at least 100 mbps download speed and 100 mbps upload speed. Currently Wiscasset is listed as having 1,888 ‘premises’ by the state of which 1,881 do not have access to speeds qualifying them as served. The committee has been in talks with Consolidated Communications which is the incumbent telephone and DSL provider in Wiscasset. The current goal of the committee is to have universal access to a fiber-to-the-premise network in Wiscasset.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Dickstein, Chair  
Marty Fox, Treasurer  
Evan Goodkowsky, Secretary  
Richard Litz  
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