

Town of Litchfield Broadband Committee

January 2020 Sodalite Submission

*The charter of the Litchfield Ad-Hoc Broadband Committee is to help the Select Board find ways to provide all Litchfield households with quality broadband services at competitive costs. This includes the 'Unserved' (those without internet available), as well as the 'Underserved' (those with slow connection speeds, periodic disconnects, excessive monthly fees, and monthly data limits).*

*The Committee provided an update to the Select Board on Monday, December 9, 2019, summarized as follows:*

***The importance of broadband as a utility vital to daily living was discussed and agreed upon.***

***The Committee attended the Maine Broadband Summit meeting in October. They have discussed the Litchfield broadband situation with Maine State Representative Kent Ackley, and aids from both U.S. Senator Angus King and U.S. Congressman Jared Golden's office. They have also met with incumbent and potential new Internet Service Providers (ISP). Additional meetings with other ISP will continue through January.***

***Approximately 57 households participated in the broadband survey that was initiated in November. Of those that participated in the survey, two-thirds of the respondents reported services that are categorized as 'Unserved' or 'Underserved'.***

***Moving forward, the Committee suggested and received support from the Select Board to:***

***- Work to address current issues/complaints with incumbent providers (Spectrum and Consolidated)***

**- Find at least one ISP solution for all unserved/underserved (Likely will require town investment)**

**- Provide more than one ISP option when possible (to keep all providers competitive)**

**- Investigate potential government grants and subsidies for improving broadband infrastructure**

*The complete presentation can be found on the Town of Litchfield website here:*

<https://www.litchfieldmaine.org/town-government/committees/broadband-committee/>

*We welcome anyone that has not completed a broadband survey to participate:*

<https://www.litchfieldmaine.org/wp-content/uploads/Litchfield-Broadband-Survey.pdf>