

Brighton Smart Growth Grant Committee

Minutes

December 15, 2008

1. CBN Connect – Julie West

Julie West is the Project Coordinator for CBN Connect. She couldn't make it to the committee meeting due to the weather, but she emailed her PowerPoint presentation and we went through it at the meeting. The purpose of the presentation was to learn more about CBN Connect's efforts to bring broadband to the Adirondacks, and discussing the possibility of collaborating with CBN and area towns to apply for a NYS Office of Technology grant to install a wireless transmitter at the Lake Clear Airport. CBN Connect is currently in the process of conducting a survey of all potential wireless antennae sites in the ADK park, conducting a wireless internet pilot project in Chateauguay, and preparing to install high speed cable in many areas of the Adirondacks in 2009-2010. During the presentation, the committee came up with several questions, which were subsequently answered by Julie over the phone:

- If a wireless antenna were to be installed at the Lake Clear airport, what would the radius of transmission be? Would it reach most of Brighton? – Julie said the radius would be five miles as the crow flies, so it would probably cover most if not all of the town.
- How does the wireless transmission work? How would the signal be limited only to subscribers? – Julie said that subscribers would have an antenna receiver at their house (inside or outside, depending on proximity to the transmitter), which would transmit signal via a secure link to their router. Each antenna would have its own IP address.
- When will the cable be installed on Route 30 (to McCollums)? – Julie said probably late 2009 or early 2010. They want to install cable on Route 30 to close the “loop” with Route 11 and Route 3, but the problem with Route 30 is that there is one location with a gap between power poles, so they need to work something out with the electrical companies to bridge the gap.
- Are there any health concerns with wireless technologies? – Julie says no, there are wireless signals all around us all the time already and there are no known health problems.
- Who would be the likely providers if a wireless transmitter were installed at the Lake Clear airport? – The pilot project in Chateauguay is working with Primelink and Westelcom, and Julie imagines those two companies would be interested in expanding their business base, plus Time Warner. They are encouraging multiple carriers in order to increase competition and lower cost.
- When did DANC start? How long is the time frame for these projects to be up and running? – According to Julie, it took DANC two years to get going. She stresses that although CBN Connect is based on DANC's business model, they have some important differences. For one thing, DANC is a for-profit authority and CBN Connect just received their 501c(3) nonprofit status. CBN Connect is non-competitive with local providers, which the providers like and therefore they are willing to be cooperative. Also, DANC is business-oriented while CBN Connect's goal is to ultimately get high speed Internet access to all households in the North Country. CBN Connect is incorporating a

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digital literacy education component as well as utilizing regional partnerships to meet their goals.

- What are the estimated speeds for the different types of Internet access? – to answer this question, I referred to the CBN Connect Web site as well as my notes from the November 14, 2008 APA session on telecommunications in the ADK Park. See below:

Telecom Speeds (as discussed at the November 14, 2008 APA conference on telecommunications):

Broadband as defined by the FCC: 750 kb/sec

Regular Roadrunner Cable (broadband): 3-10 MB/sec, depending on number of users

Time Warner Turbo: 15 MB/sec, depending on number of users

DSL: 750 kb/sec upload, 1.5 MB/sec download

Satellite: 1.5 MB/sec

Dialup: 56 kb/sec

Wireless: 1.0 MB/sec

To see a video of the November 14, 2008 APA session on telecommunications, click here: http://nysapa.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=75&publish_id=&event_id=

The CBN Connect Web site has a lot of information too: <http://www.cbnconnect.org/>
Specifically, there are some YouTube videos comparing different types of Internet access: <http://www.cbnconnect.org/about.php>, a speed test showing the different kinds of internet connections: <http://www.cbnconnect.org/speed.php>, and general information about fiber optics: <http://www.cbnconnect.org/fiber.php>.

2. Progress report – Rebecca

a. Camp Gabriels

Rebecca had a phone meeting with Jeff Tedford, warden at Camp Gabriels, to find out where things stand with the facility remaining open. He said that it all depends on the Governor's budget. He said there is very little the town can do to help, other than continuing to show support and keep our fingers crossed. I noticed that there were some stories in the paper about Camp Gabriels this past week so I will continue to follow up.

b. Diane Leifheit

Rebecca and Diane had a meeting last week to discuss the brochure and business directory. We decided to create one brochure, booklet style, that incorporates a Brighton business directory and tourist guide.

c. Steve Englehart – Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH)

Rebecca discussed the historical resources in the Town of Brighton with Steve and he provided some information on properties in the town and ways to preserve existing resources.

d. Ann Heidenreich – NYSERDA

Rebecca discussed NYSERDA's Energy Smart initiative with Ann. Energy audits are available for commercial, institutional, non-profit and local government buildings, as well as individual residences. More information can be found at <http://www.getenergysmart.org>. Funding is also

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available for residential homeowners that meet low income guidelines for weatherization and appliance replacement. Ann is willing to hold a community workshop for outreach regarding these programs, which we will schedule for sometime in the spring, preferably in late March when people are starting to think about spring cleaning and seasonal upgrades.

e. Photos for brochure

Rebecca provided some photos taken in Brighton to Diane for the brochure. Diane will check to find out if we can use the photos from the Brighton 2000 book in the brochure. If not, the Committee thinks we can solicit photos from other community members for use in the brochure, rather than paying additional fees for photo use.

f. Brighton business list

Rebecca updated the Brighton business list based on responses to the spreadsheets that were posted at the stores and post offices in town. Rebecca provided the list to Diane for initial layout – the final list will be based on survey responses. Diane recommended that we include all the businesses in the brochure regardless of whether or not they are willing to help pay for printing, and offer bold lettering or logos to businesses that choose to pay for a listing in the brochure.

g. Letter to Supervisors

Rebecca recommended that David send a letter to the supervisors of our neighboring towns and villages to let them know about our project, and to find out if they are interested in any cooperative planning efforts. Rebecca will draft a sample letter for David to revise.

3. Old Business

a. Transition Town

No update at this time.

b. Survey

Rebecca will submit final survey questions to the Committee at the next meeting so that we can get the survey up and running in January.

c. GIS Mapping

F. X. Browne, Inc. and the Wildlife Conservation Society will bring preliminary maps to the next meeting for discussion

d. Focus groups

It was brought up at our last Committee meeting that we should have some focus group or neighborhood meetings as part of this project. The Committee decided to wait for the results of the survey to determine what group meetings, if any, should be set up. Examples may include business owners, people interested in green building, etc.

4. Next meeting – January 12, 2008