



**Lakes Region Planning Commission  
Informational Meeting Notes**

June 28, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom Conference Call

**Commissioners Present**

Mardean Badger, Ashland  
David Kerr, Barnstead  
Bill Dowey, Bristol  
Steve Favorite, Bristol  
Mark Hildebrand, Center Harbor  
Mark Hempton, Effingham  
John Ayer, Gilford  
Robert Snelling, Holderness  
Dean Anson, Laconia  
Stacy Soucy, Laconia  
Cristina Ashjian, Moultonborough  
Celeste Burns, Moultonborough  
David Katz, New Hampton

**Guests / Public**

Scott Valcourt, Guest Speaker  
Nicholas Coates, Guest Speaker  
Kevin Glynn, Guest Speaker  
Tavis Austin, Wolfeboro Town Planner  
Scott Bartlett, Moultonborough Planning Board Chair  
Peter Brunette, Laconia Planning Board Chair  
Bill D'Arcy  
Julie Dolan, Sandwich Broadband Advisory Committee Chair  
Leo Dwyer, NHEC  
John Froumy, Belmont Zoning Board  
Allen Hoch, Sr., Moultonborough Planning Board Chair  
George Tuthill, Alexandria Selectboard Chair

**LRPC Staff**

Jeff Hayes, Executive Director  
Tracey Ciriello, Meeting Recorder

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**1. LRPC Announcements — Information Only**

- a) Meeting Format Change: Meeting planned as virtual long before state of emergency ended.
- b) 50th Anniversary News: Delayed until June 2022 Annual Meeting
- c) FY22 Meeting Schedule: Approved dates attached; topics and locations subject to change.
- d) *Minutes of April 26, 2021: FYI only (to be acted upon at next regular meeting).*

**2. The Future of Broadband in the Lakes Region and How to Get There**

**Guest Speakers: Scott Valcourt, Nicholas Coates, Kevin Glynn**

Two presentations were given regarding broadband in New Hampshire followed by a Q&A. A copy of the Zoom recording in audio or video format (with slides) is available on the website [here](#). The first guest was Scott Valcourt of Northeastern University at Portland, formerly of University of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping & Planning Program, who spoke for about half an hour. He illustrated his talk with PowerPoint slides and gave a history describing broadband efforts in NH as well as defining in detail what broadband is, why it's needed, and what the various physical means of transmission are, along with their speeds, advantages, and limitations.

Bristol Town Administrator Nik Coates along with Kevin Glynn, Director of Business Development at eX<sup>2</sup> Technology, presented the approach taken by the Town of Bristol, which started 3-5 years ago due to lack of cell phone reception and grew from there as a matter of livability, economic development, and municipal operations effort to connect businesses to schools. The project got started before bonding authority was available and is the town's own unique approach to a dual network of both a private network (homes and businesses) and a municipal network; it has resulted in a \$2 million dollar network investment at a cost of \$90K, with funds from the private sector along with grants, including public/private partners. The following key points were stressed: 1) be flexible and don't over-plan, 2) communication with your legislative delegation including local, state, county, and federal levels, 3) bringing in ISP technical expertise is critical, 4) communication with neighboring communities, 5) hiring a consultant such as eX<sup>2</sup> can help navigate the road and avoid roadblocks, and 6) don't wait until the end to figure out insurance.

**3. Local and Regional News/Announcements.** The informational meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.