

**Monday, April 1, 2024 6:30 PM**  
**Regular Session**  
**Dalton Select Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Jo Beth. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Thomas Dubreuil (Tom), and Eric Moore were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking.

Public attendees: Pam Kathan, Vic St. Cyr, Corey St. Cyr, Cathleen Fountain, Mark Jacobs, Christine Ordinetz, Robin Pilotte, Michael Trudeau, Kurt Hall, Nancy Crosby, Christina Fintonis, Terry Parks, Ron Sheltry, Michael Carrier, Adam King, Jay Ennis, Kris Ennis, Diane Lyon, Carol Sheltry, Nancy Comeau, and videographer Emily Thompson as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

Tom Dubreuil motioned for Eric Moore to be Chair, remiss of discussion. Eric second. Jo Beth 'nay'. Jo Beth explained that being chair takes experience and knowledge, and Eric was too new to the board.

Eric motioned for Tom to be the liaison to the Conservation Commission, remiss of discussion. Tom second. Jo Beth 'nay'.

Tom motioned for Eric to be the Planning Board liaison, remiss of discussion. Eric second. Jo Beth 'nay'.

Eric introduced himself as the new select board member.

Bob Wentworth provided his letter of resignation with Friday April 5, 2024 being his last day. Jo Beth thanked Bob for his nearly 30 years of service. She additionally offered her condolences for the passing of his wife Jessie, in March, noting Jessie's many years of service to the town. Tom seconded Jo Beth's comments.

Tom stated that Adam King has been groomed by Bob to take over his position when he was ready to leave. Tom believes Adam is a good pick for the position. Tom motions for Adam King to become our new Road Agent to finish Bob's term into March 2025. Jo Beth seconds. Approval via roll call vote. Jeanette asks Adam if he wants the position. He said yes.

Jo Beth suggested NHMA's Hard Road to Travel class for Adam. Adam agrees he would like to attend. Eric asked if we need to fill the open position now created by Adam's promotion. Jo Beth confirmed. Jeanette will send the board members the last job description we used to review for discussion at the next meeting.

Jo Beth asked Adam about the Bridge funding we received in the past year. Adam stated that he had already asked for quotes on resurfacing the bridges on French and Faraway Roads.

Nancy Crosby was present to present bank documents for board signatures. All members signed and Jeanette witnessed the documents. They were given back to Nancy at the end of the meeting.

The Board signed payroll and AP checks.

Jeanette presented the closed landfill report just received from Horizon Engineering. All members reviewed the report. Jeanette stated it needed a signature. Jo Beth stated it is usually the chair that signs board documents. Eric signed the report. Tom asked for a copy to be emailed to him. He asked who was handling the tasks assigned to the town in the report. Jo Beth stated they are generally handled by the road agent. Tom asked that a copy be given to Adam. Jeanette confirmed she would email Tom a copy and give one to Adam in print.

Eric signed a pistol permit.

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The Board signed five (5) intents to excavate. Tom asked where the forms come from. Jeanette told him they can be found online at DRA's website.

Jeanette presented the MS-232 for Board signatures. Jo Beth motioned for the Board to sign the report. Eric asked if this had anything to do with the audit. Jeanette and Jo Beth both stated no. Jeanette continued by stating it is the list of actual appropriations that were voted on at town meeting. Tom reviewed the report and hesitated to sign it. He stated that he's unfamiliar with the forms and should be given more time to review the information before being asked to sign. He is reminded that we have gone over these numbers multiple times, going all the way back to last fall when we started working on the budget. Jo Beth offered to show him the appropriation in the Town Report as approved by the voters at Town Meeting. Diane Lyon asked what the form was. Jeanette answered. Carol Sheltry stated this is the same form Tom signed last year. Tom doesn't recall. Diane states that it must be difficult to remember all these things and that she wouldn't know what the document was either. Jeanette stated that it is the board member's job to be familiar with these things. Others agreed. Tom asked why there is no capital outlay on here when there was capital outlay last year. Jeanette stated that capital outlay isn't a budgetary line item for 2024 so it's not on the 2024 MS-232. He questions the personnel admin line which included money for retirement as well as 10% for raises. He stated that raises were never discussed by the Board. Jeanette and Jo Beth both stated that it was discussed multiple times, beginning when we were developing the budget, at the budget hearing, and afterwards. It was also shown on the details pages that calculated the budget. Tom asked if the fire marshall was getting a raise. Tom was reminded the fire marshall is a state position. He asked if the fire chief was getting a raise; Ron Sheltry answered no. Jeanette stated the raise was for administrative workers in the office, including the treasurer and deputies. Tom stated he had no problem giving raises but he doesn't believe it was discussed. He doesn't agree with starting state retirement because it wasn't discussed enough. He asked for more information and said he didn't get it. Jeanette told him that she provided the only information received from NHRS. She will have more information once it's received by the organization. Tom wants to investigate a 401k program or something else for the town to participate in. He thinks the town is paying too much for employee benefits. Stated we are paying 90% of the benefits already. Jeanette confirms the town pays 90% of the medical benefits for the fulltime employees. Those are the health benefits provided to the town employees. Tom wants to put this (State retirement for employees) on hold as he believes it's a conflict of interest for Jeanette to be doing the work when she will financially benefit off the program. Jeanette voiced concern over Tom's comment regarding a conflict of interest. Jeanette is doing the work the Board asks her to do. Jeanette is retrieving information and giving it to the board for discussion and decision making. Searching for information and obtaining documents for board approval does not make it a conflict of interest since it's her job to do those things, and she is not the decision maker. Jeanette would only benefit from the program as a fulltime employee of the town, as would all other fulltime employees enrolled in the program. Tom read a section from "Knowing Your Territory" as it pertains to conflicts of interest. Jeanette asked for the page (page 255) and asked for some time to review what he read. Tom agreed. Jo Beth noted that the section refers to Town Officials, such as the elected Select Board members. Jeanette gathered retirement information on behalf of the Select Board, as a town employee, not as a town official. Therefore it is not a conflict of interest.

Jo Beth noted there is a motion for the Board to sign the MS 232 form required by DRA. Eric seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.



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Tom asked for more notice to review documents when he is required to sign. He would like 1-2 weeks' time to review documents prior to signing. Jeanette stated she would do what she could, but she doesn't even have that much time prior to due dates.

The Board reviewed and approved the working session meeting minutes from March 11, 2024, with modification per Tom's request. Jo Beth motioned with a second from Tom. Approved via roll call.

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from March 18, 2024, Jo Beth motioned with a second from Eric. Approved via roll call.

The Board reviewed and approved the nonpublic meeting minutes #1 regarding legal, from March 18, 2024. Jo Beth motioned with a second from Tom and approval via roll call vote.

Cathleen Fountain was present to provide an update from the March 28, 2024 Broad Band Committee meeting. The work continues with installations. An E911 survey will be sent out soon to confirm everyone is getting access. Detailed notes provided by Cathleen are attached to these minutes. Cathleen noted that it's important for all residents to request connection to their home, at no cost to the resident, even if they will not be subscribing to an internet services. It was also discussed that Spectrum is marketing their program, without full disclosure of the options.

Jo Beth asked questions regarding residents counts and installation. Tom asked about the types of fiber and their purposes. Diane asked about service providers in the area. Christine stated we should find a way to share this information with all town residences. Jo Beth asked Cathleen if other towns were providing information and how. Cathleen stated they were and perhaps a postcard would be an inexpensive way to do so. Cost would be the town's responsibility. Cathleen stated that the website and word of mouth, meetings, etc. are all good ways. Carol asked if they could be included in tax bills going out soon. Jeanette stated they could not – only tax information may be included in the tax bill mailing. Cathleen said she could work on drafting a postcard mailer. Cathy will work on a draft and get pricing. Michael Trudeau asks about emails; but the town doesn't have an email database. Diane asks if the grant would help with these costs. Cathleen will check on all these things.

Asbestos abatement and flooring replacement order acknowledgements have been signed and the deposits made. Work should take place the end of April into May. Pam asked about the asbestos testing and reporting. She asked why we were doing the work when we didn't need to do it now. Jeanette mentioned that we have been discussing this for nearly a year now. The flooring is cracking, chipping, and loosening. She asked about air testing, to which there were no particles found in the air. Skip from GEM mentioned it is likely due to the fact there is not much foot traffic in the building. Jeanette reminded Pam that once it's in the air, you're too late and now it's an emergency job. Pam asked if this is a personal preference to have the work done now. Jeanette states that it is a health and safety preference approved by the Select Board. Jo Beth noted that the Board did not want to continue to push costs off to future years. Pam asked if we obtained three quotes. Jeanettes stated no; we have a very hard time getting companies to come all the way up here to look at work and give quotes. Diane asked about the office being open and the library being open. Offices at the entrance should be done first with minimal closures. The library will be closed during work completion. We hope to have the hallway done first so we can use the building while they complete the gymnasium. We will have to wait and see. Christine asked why we don't just lay the new tile over the old tile. Jeanette stated this was not

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encapsulating it like she thought. Removing the asbestos and replacing the flooring with new tile is the way to go. Pam states the budget just went over one million dollars and now this added expense. Jeanette reminded her it's not coming out of the general funds; it's coming from the Building Capital Reserve Funds. Vic asks how much it's costing. Jeanette replies about \$38k. Christine asks if this included the bathroom. Jeanette states there is no asbestos flooring in the bathroom. Diane asks if it includes the kitchen. Jeanette states it includes the few asbestos pipe insulation joints in the kitchen. The flooring did not test positive for asbestos. Robin asked about the wall in the library. Jeanette stated the walls are not being taken down. They have been painted and are truly sealed/encapsulated. As long as we don't do any construction to walls, that is fine. Jeanette asked if there were any other asbestos or flooring questions. There were none.

The Building Committee met prior to tonight's meeting and discussed the door that needs to be replaced at the Boiler Room exterior entrance. Michel Trudeau and Kyle MacBean measured the door. Jeanette confirmed she would order. The committee is still waiting for the financial information Tom received on the Transfer Station so they can assist him with that analysis.

Kyle was asked about the transfer station and how the town could improve functionality and efficiency. Kyle would like to get one or two 20" cargo containers to store items in at the station. The large semi trailer is great, but it's difficult to access things inside since it's still on tires and axels. It was discussed that we should hire someone to remove these parts in lieu of the highway crew completing the task. Eric stated he will ask Wayne Lambert for a quote. Christine reminded us there are one-use containers and multi-use containers. We should be sure to get the multi-use containers because they're made better and will last longer. Kyle mentioned that increasing the bag prices would likely work out best help cover our costs because our surrounding communities have higher bag prices. Tom stated the price was already \$3.50 per large bag; he couldn't remember and would have to ask Kyle again. Michael Carrier stated the price for construction debris is \$2.00 per bag. The price for blue bags is \$17.00 per roll for large bags and \$11/roll for small bags. Jay Ennis stated we shouldn't have fees that are too low because then more people will use the facility and we will end up subsidizing it even more. Tom asked about stickers. Using stickers poses an issues with policing everyone coming into the station. Michael Carrier stated it's difficult to do that and keep track of everything when you're the only person there. Tom will get pricing for other town's bags and report back at the next meeting. Tom was asked to be at the next Building Committee meeting to work with them on the transfer station financial analysis. Tom thought the committee took that over. Jo Beth and Jeanette confirmed that was not the case; the committee is helping with the transfer station improvements, but Tom was still responsible for the financial analysis he said he would complete last January/February.

The property used as Dalton Picnic Area on Dalton Road, belonging to Donna Madonna, has been the topic of conversation multiple times. Tom stated at the Town Meeting that we should give up the property if no one can commit to maintaining it. Donna is looking for confirmation of insurance coverage, area maintenance, etc. Corey stated this used to be a great spot. Michael Trudeau's property borders the space to the north. Tom stated that we should add it to the mowing rotation the town subcontracts. Tom would like to create a committee to maintain the area for continued public use. Terry Parks asked if there is a formal agreement for the town to use the land. Vic stated it's achieved here somewhere. Ron stated the fire department can do a burn for the stick pile that has grown. Jay asked if we should just add that mowing to the budget. Michael Trudeau did state people still use it for water



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and things of the sort. Tom motioned to continue to maintain the area with volunteers and our mowing contract. Eric provided a second. Approval via roll call vote. Tom will head the volunteer maintenance committee. Tom to draft a legal agreement for review/discussion at the next meeting in preparation for sending it to legal.

We have no news on a new assessor yet. David Buckley has been conversing with NH DRA about options.

The audit is underway and should be wrapped up shortly. This audit is required annually and is completed by a CPA firm hired by the town. Tom asked to see the documents sent to the auditor. Jeanette reminded him these are the same things he has looked at since becoming a select board member. Jo Beth described the general process of the audit, including the submission of sample transactions with all the documentation for each sample. Tom wants to see the documents so he can better understand the audit. Jeanette let the board know we should have the preliminary report soon, possibly during the week. Tom stated he will wait for the report.

The Internet Café work will begin once planning is complete.

Select Board Rules of Procedure to be sent to Board members. Jay Ennis asked if these could be posted on the website. Jo Beth stated they should be made available on our website, if not already there. Jay also asked about town by-laws. Jeanette hasn't seen any unless the by-laws are the actual binder of town ordinances. She will look to see what she can find. When asked if there is anything else we should post online, Kurt Hall stated fees. Jeanette asked which fees. He replied dog licensing, cat licensing, whatever. He added transfer station fees. Jeanette will add the dog licensing fees online. Dalton does not license cats. She let him know the transfer station fees are on the transfer station page. He will look again.

Eric motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:50pm. Tom second. Approved via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 4-15-2024 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

Eric Moore

## Coös County Broad Band-Info

### Current Broadband Providers in Coös County:

Consolidated Communications Inc – DSL Copper/Fiber and Leased Lines  
Spectrum – Cable TV and Broadband  
Bretton Woods Telephone Company (BWTC) - Cable TV and Fiber  
Wireless Partners dba Great North Woods Wireless – Fixed wireless and cell  
Netafy – Fixed Wireless  
Argent Communications – Cable TV and Broadband/Fiber  
Fibercast – Cable TV and Broadband/Fiber  
Firstlight – Fiber for Business and Anchor Institutions  
New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC) - Fiber to the Business and Residential

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISPs): They come in several forms including privately owned commercial businesses, electric cooperatives, and municipal providers. ISPs employ several transmission technologies to connect to your home. Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) is a wireline technology, that uses copper phone lines to transmit data. Speed degrades quickly over distance.

The longer the distance between the DSL connection point and the user, the slower the service. Speeds for DSL usually top out at 5-7 Mbps.

Cable companies use cable TV infrastructure (coaxial cables) to provide internet access, similar to the way DSL uses the phone network infrastructure. Since a cable network can share the last mile connection among hundreds of subscribers, they are particularly prone to congestion problems.

Fiber-Optic Technology converts electrical signals carrying data to light and sends the light through transparent glass or plastic fibers about the diameter of a human hair. These fibers are capable of transmitting large amounts of data at high transfer rates as pulses of light. Fiber transmits data at speeds far exceeding DSL or cable modem speeds. Often abbreviated as FTTH (fiber to the home) or FTTP (fiber to the premise), fiber-optics connect directly to a home or building.

Satellite broadband is a form of wireless broadband, which is affected by the line of sight to the orbiting satellite and the weather. Often the only option in rural areas, satellite speeds are generally comparable to DSL and cable.

Wireless broadband connects a home or business to the Internet using a radio link between the customer's location and the service provider's facility, often a cell phone tower. Speeds are generally comparable to DSL and cable.

3G, 4G, and 5G: They designate successive generations of wireless technology, each faster than the one before.

3G offered speeds of less than 1 Mbps

4G is 10 times faster than 3G with speeds of 5-12 Mbps.

4G LTE, the next generation of 4G, provides speeds up to 100 Mbps.

5G, which is still under development, is rumored to offer speeds of up to 1 Gbps.

**BLUETOOTH:** Wireless data standard for transferring data over short ranges. Bluetooth is used for many applications such as wireless mice and keyboards and connecting peripherals to smartphones.

**WIFI:** Term used for wireless internet or wireless signal.

**HOT SPOT:** Area where there is a wireless wi-fi signal.

**MODEMS and ROUTERS:** A modem is a device that converts data to and from a format that's suitable for transmission between devices, like a computer to the internet. A router directs traffic on a home network.

**UPLOAD AND DOWNLOAD – SYMMETRICAL AND ASYMMETRICAL:** Download and upload describe the direction of the data between the end-user and the provider. Download and upload speeds are expressed in Mbps: 10/10 is a symmetrical system with both download and upload at the same speed. An asymmetrical system, for example, 25/3, lists the download speed first. Most internet services are asymmetric, with wider bandwidth/faster speeds to download, and slower to upload. The assumption is that most users consume data rather than share or upload it. Upload speed is important to users who need to share large files of data.

**LATENCY:** Reaction speed of a network; the time it takes to send data and receive a reply, measured in milliseconds (ms). Too high a "lag" can be a problem for activities that rely on rapid communications, such as online gaming. Satellite broadband connections have very high latency rates due to the time it takes to transfer data to and from orbit.

**DIGITAL DIVIDE:** The gulf between those parts of the population who have access to the internet and other digital technologies and those sections that do not. There is concern that as so many services become available online, groups without digital access will be left behind and miss opportunities in life and at work.

**DIGITAL EQUITY:** Ensures that all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in society, democracy, and the economy. Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

**INTERNET OF THINGS:** Objects with embedded electronics and sensors which share data and can be remotely controlled. A "thing" can be anything from a smart thermostat to a security camera, a smart home device like Alexa to an internet-connected refrigerator.

**VoIP:** Voice over Internet Protocol. Technology for making phone calls using an internet connection from any device, including mobile and landline phones. Skype is currently the most popular VoIP application.

**TELEMEDICINE:** The use of high-speed, high-capacity internet to support long-distance health care services. Goals include the ability to bring quality health care to those living far from hospitals or to



elderly patients wishing to age in place. Patients can be seen, treated, monitored, and given tools to manage their health care.

**ONLINE EDUCATION:** Creating access for all eliminates the “homework gap” for those students increasingly required to complete assignments online. Adult learners benefit from remote learning opportunities to complete academic degrees and access technical and mechanical training.

**RURAL DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (RDOF):** The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) is an FCC initiative designed to inject billions of dollars into the construction and operation of rural broadband networks. FCC is disbursing funds through a reverse auction. Interested broadband carriers can participate in the auction and bid for these funds, with bidders promising to deliver broadband and voice services at the lowest cost to those same territories.

**TELECOMMUTING:** Working from home. More and more corporations and small companies are hiring workers to work full-time from home. Those who have that ability today are weathering the pandemic while maintaining their livelihoods. Online job opportunities allow one to live wherever they choose while still making a good living. Telecommuting also encourages entrepreneurship and helps small businesses compete in a wider marketplace.

**SOCIAL INTERACTION:** Online conferences, meetings, and social gatherings have become the norm. Internet connections support the ability of isolated people to maintain contact with often widely scattered family and friends, as well as access to information and networks of shared interests. Social support and interaction have positive influences on physical and mental well-being, especially among people living alone, decreasing loneliness, and fostering a sense of belonging.

## FIBER AS A FUTURE-PROOF TECHNOLOGY

Tried and tested over decades throughout the world. Fiber-optic is not a new technology and has been used across America since the 1980s.

**Capability.** Bandwidth use roughly doubles every two years, as the expansion and demand from the Internet of Things, HD content, and the amount of data generated and transmitted increases. FTTP will be able to handle the increased demands with ease.

**Easily upgradable.** As the demand becomes greater, fiber can easily deliver upgraded speeds.

**Affordable.** The cost of fiber internet service is comparable to other technologies. However, the fiber is significantly more reliable and is not affected by distance from a hub or traffic congestion on the lines. Fiber offers one delivery system for telephone (cell and landline), video, audio, television, and almost any type of data transmission, using a single seamless FTTP connection.

### *Technologies*

**Digital Subscriber Line (DSL):** A technology for high-speed network or Internet access over voice



lines, where the last mile is usually copper wire. There are various types, including asymmetric DSL (ADSL), high-bit-rate DSL (HDSL), symmetric DSL (SDSL) and very-high-bit-rate DSL (VDSL). The whole group is sometimes referred to as xDSL.

Coaxial cable: Offers a shared system, meaning that the signal strength is dependent on how much bandwidth is being drawn on by other users connected to that same line. Moreover, cable systems are designed primarily to push data down to the customer, a significantly different model than the emerging needs of telecommuting and interactive video which require high bandwidth for both downloading and uploading.

Fixed Wireless: Fixed wireless networking refers to the operation of wireless devices in fixed locations such as homes and offices. Fixed wireless devices usually derive their electrical power from utility mains, unlike mobile wireless devices, which tend to be battery powered. Fixed wireless is the typical form of internet deployed in areas with no fiber internet infrastructure, mainly rural areas.

PLEASE NOTE:

Dalton is now assigned with Whitefield, Jefferson, and Lancaster.

CCI is currently building in Berlin, Gorham, Randolph, and Shelburne...as noted below.

Berlin: 100% of the fiber has been placed and 97% spliced.

Gorham, Randolph & Shelburne: 100% of the fiber has been placed and 87% has been spliced.

It is advised for our residents to pre-register for the CCI Fidium Fiber to the premise deployment still to be scheduled.

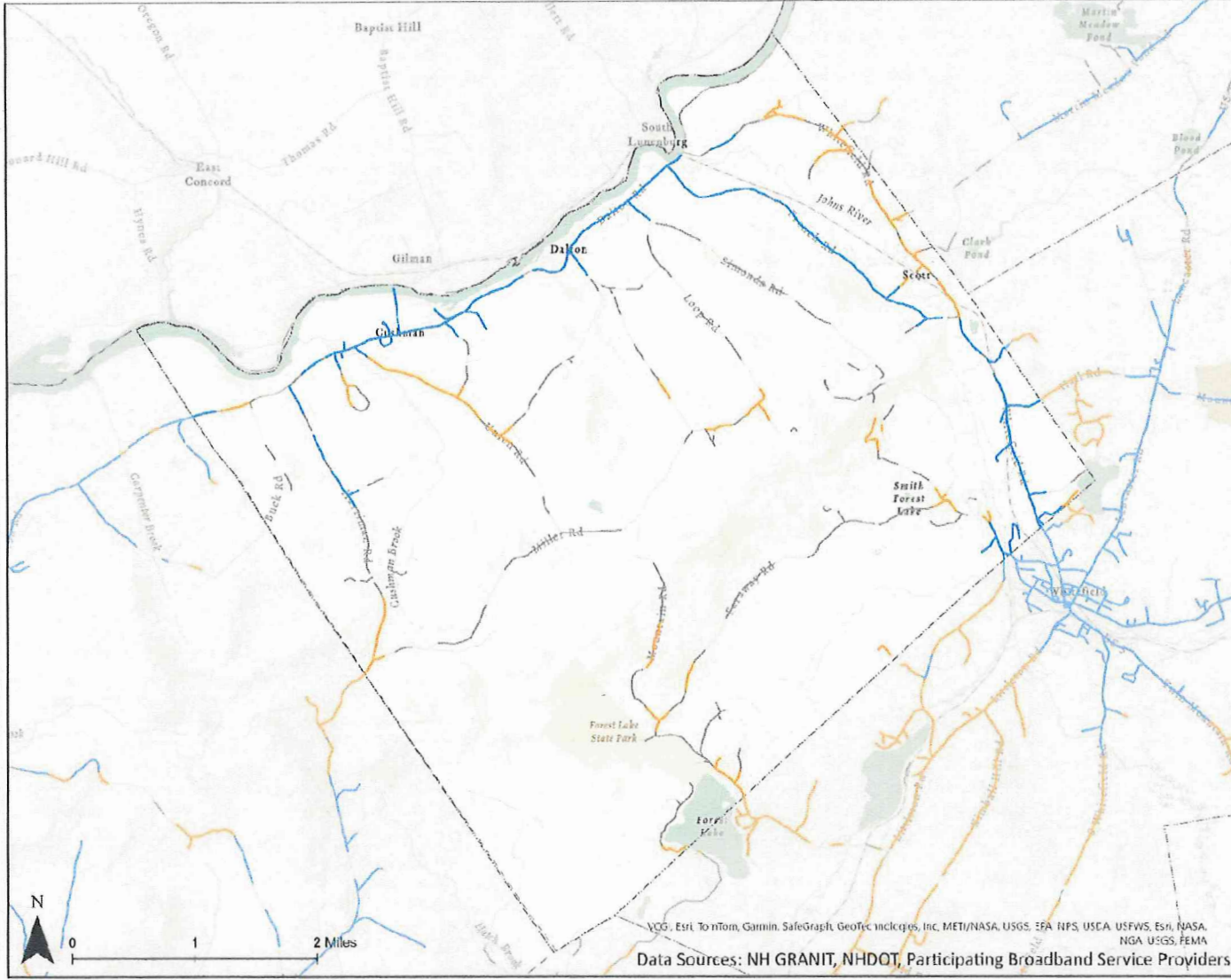
If Spectrum (cable) is busy trying to get people signed up before construction it is advised for folks (residents) to pre-register and wait...or at least **not get signed into contracts that cannot be broken.**

Here is the link to pre-register <https://www.fidiumfiber.com/fiber-locations>

Find the New Hampshire listing and then Dalton then click on it to pre-register, or go directly using the link below.

<https://www.fidiumfiber.com/fiber-internet-Dalton-nh>

# New Hampshire Broadband Mapping Initiative



## Town of Dalton, NH

This map depicts broadband service for the town of Dalton, NH. Broadband service categories are displayed using road segments to identify locations categorized as Served, Underserved, or Unserved. Served locations are defined by internet connections with downstream speeds of at least 100 Mbps and Upstream speeds of at least 20 Mbps. Underserved locations are defined by internet service slower than these speeds. All others are categorized as Unserved, including locations with only wireless or satellite service.

Summary data tables for the town include service category percentages, a list of providers currently offering service, and a list of available technology types. This map represents the second iteration of data collection for the NHAMI. Participating service provider data are current as of June 30, 2023.

Unserved (%)	Underserved (%)	Served (%)
40.47	16.74	42.79

**Broadband Service Providers**  
 Charter Communications Inc  
 Consolidated Communications, Inc.

**Broadband Technologies**  
 Cable  
 DSL  
 Fiber

- Service Category**
- Unserved
  - Underserved
  - Served
  - Municipal Boundaries



Date Created: January 2024



Data Sources: NH GRANIT, NHDOT, Participating Broadband Service Providers