Updates on this summer's IAH Broadband Committee activities:

The Broadband Committee had three main focuses.

First was the community broadband interest survey that many participated in. Thanks to all who did since any successful broadband plan begins with community involvement. Survey results will be compiled soon and will be presented in another report so we won't get into them here.

Second, much effort was put into applications for planning grant funding. This work resulted in receiving a grant for $10,000 from the Island Institute. This money will be used to pay for the development of an engineered design for improved island-wide high speed connectivity.

Third, in order to find a company to partner with in the design planning work and with the help of the Island Institute we prepared a Request For Information (RFI) and had it presented to multiple internet service providers for their response. The RFI document is available on the town's web site through the Broadband Committee page. As a result of that process we are now contracting with Axiom Telecommunications, an ISP based in Machias, to develop an infrastructure design that can reliably provide island-wide data rates meeting both the federal and state broadband standards. An important secondary goal is a design that can take advantage of future improvements in mainland connectivity without substantial on-island rework. A representative of Axiom has already been to IAH and done an initial evaluation of the task with further visits by engineering personnel expected. We expect the completed design in October.

The committee has added a new member; Rozalyn Santospago has joined the group. Roz brings a good new perspective to our efforts. Thanks Roz.

Even if you aren't on the committee we welcome any comments or ideas anytime for where the IAH broadband work should be focusing. Just contact any of the members.