

Town of North Harmony
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The first meeting of the Internet Availability Task Force was held on Tuesday May 1st. Our goal is to secure competitive internet services throughout the town.

The meeting was complicated by a conflicting Planning Board meeting. The scheduling of which was counter to their normal meeting date, and without regard to the prior scheduled Internet Task Force meeting. Such is the life of small town government where everyone is volunteering their time. I apologize to the folks that wanted to attend both meetings in their entirety. Thank you to all those who attended the Task Force meeting.

- The current state of affairs with regard to internet service was reviewed.
- The support of the office of the Attorney General, Senator Young and Assemblymen Goodell was gratefully acknowledged.
- The roll of the FCC and the federal government was discussed and the recommendation that we enlist the support of Congressmen Higgins and Reed and Senators Schumer and Gellibrand was made.
- The need for a competitive internet market where two or more internet suppliers are available throughout the town was discussed. The logistical obstacles of multiple hard wire or fiber direct suppliers in our rural sparsely populated community were discussed. Because of these obstacles, the recommendation was made that we contact Verizon Wireless and DFT to propose wireless internet access in a model that is not currently available.
- The plight of our underserved residents (residents not getting the speed and reliability for which they have subscribed) was discussed along with Windstream's efforts of a new Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) at the Bly Hill Remote switch. This switch serves the Butts Road – Open Meadows Community. The need to have current speed complaint information that we can refer to local service representatives was discussed. It was suggested we contact all the town residents who have completed the survey to date and ask them their current speed status in light of the new DSLAM project and other efforts by Windstream. We would also encourage **ALL TOWN RESIDENTS to MAKE US AWARE OF YOUR INTERNET DEFICENCIES BY WAY OR THE ON LINE SURVEY.** <http://www.townofnorthharmony.com/internet.html> We have the ear of local service and support managers and may be able to effect and improvement in your service that you going through channels may not be able to effect on your own.
- Geoff Turner was formally recognized as the task force chair.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 19th at 7 pm to allow opportunity for Verizon and DFT and our congresspersons an opportunity to respond. All are welcome.