

Energy:

The Energy team met May 16th at the Winslow Council Chambers. Two major discussion points were: 1) Bill Basford is pulling together a municipal guide to assist towns in their decision to convert to LED street lights and the option to either lease from CMP for own the fixture and the maintenance of same. Note: the pole still is owned by the utilities. 2) Window Dressers next build in central Maine is at the Fairfield Grange, 29-30 September. Barbara Bailey coordinating. Bill Lee in contact with Barbara for any updates.

I attended the Maine Broadband Coalition Conference at Thomas College on 5/31 all day. I represented SMMC. The conference was well attended and discussed how important broadband via a well-planned fiber network is critical, even for towns now solidly with cable and internet (aka Spectrum). This is because fiber offers advantages of unlimited speed and broadband is clearly the future for nearly all information and education. Towns need to plan well for this. Major point stressed was this is a utility and the towns need to own the utility. Recent Maine law (Title 35-A, sec 9201-9218) does allow this and will permit more than one town to share in the enterprise. Planning grants through Connect ME are available to towns. The next Energy Team meeting is Wednesday, June 20 at 10:00 in the Winslow Town Office.