

Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee
Meeting with the Lamoine Technology Committee

Name of Group: Lamoine Technology Committee

Date of Meeting: 12/10/2015

Chair or contact person: Bill Butler

Phone number:

Number of people attending:

For LCPC: Fred, Kathie, Bonnie, Andrea, Val, Brett, Bob and Mike

For Tech Committee: Bill Butler, Stu Marckoon, Merle Bragdon and
Brett

Focus or primary responsibility of group: Meeting the technology needs of the Town and keeping Town systems in working order. The Town receives income from Time-Warner cable to run the cable operation in Lamoine (about \$11,000 per year). The current contract has only 18 months remaining. Cable TV generally is moving into hard times and may be a technology that is superseded, and so the future of this income is uncertain.

The Town has a free website, run by Stu with basically free software. There is off-site back-up. The website is widely held to be helpful and easy to navigate. Keeping it current does take up a lot of Stu's time, and there may come a time when the existing software is no longer supported and the Town may need to make some sort of transition. The Town Hall acts as a Wi-Fi "hot spot" and some folks do come to work there during the day.

The cable TV from Town Hall puts out live broadcasts of meetings and replays them. There is talk of a separate fiber optic cable to the school, so that there could be live broadcasts from there as well. Currently events at the school are recorded there and run on the cable station. Students get experience helping to film events at the school and can get community service credit for work on filming Town events.

Work of this group in actively planning for the future: There is a sense among many that the future development of the town may require good internet access throughout the town. Another point of view is that this is not the town's responsibility to provide it. For certain, the Town's current infrastructure is not sufficient to manage internet access for the whole town. For the present, DSL is available in most, if not all the town, but works less well at remoter locations "at the end of the line." There was some sense among that satellite internet does not work very well at present, though satellite TV does work well. There is a consulting firm that can do a map of the internet access in a town, but the expense may be prohibitive.

The Town leases space for a cell tower, and could in theory do the same for a broadband tower.

Expressed concerns of group relating to focus or primary responsibility:

Constantly changing technologies create a challenge for small towns with few staff.

The time may come when the town has to hire, or share, an IT person. The school shares someone with Ellsworth for school tech issues.

Follow up: Discuss need for a Town GIS capability with Assessors and circle back to Stu?