Falmouth Can Do Better Than This!

A Falmouth Community Network
Meeting Notice

Goal: To explore scenarios for a Falmouth Internet access network, and to discuss first steps.

Who: Falmouth residents who want better Internet service.

What: An information sharing meeting about locally owned Internet service.

When: 7:00-8:30 PM, June 4, 2019.

Where: The Hermann Room, Falmouth Library.

Why:

The Internet is as essential to our lives today as food, water, electricity and roads. Yet last summer Verizon's Internet connections failed for five days in parts of Falmouth and there were stories of Comcast summer traffic overloads. A new, locally-controlled Internet access company would give Falmouth people a competitive choice.

Falmouth has the opportunity to create its own Internet access. Hundreds of localities around the United States, including several in Massachusetts, are planning, building and operating their own Internet access services.

We envision a Falmouth-owned, publicly controlled Internet connection that would be faster, cheaper, and more reliable than the giant national telecoms. It would provide locally-based, more responsive customer service. It would be engineered for public service, not for profit. The monthly fees for this service would pay for the network and stay in the community.

Cape Cod already has the backbone for this network. It's called OpenCape. It is a "middle mile" network that serves schools, hospitals, libraries, town offices and businesses that need robust Internet connections all over Cape Cod and southeastern Massachusetts. It was built using $40 million of public funds to address the lack of network support for the region. It is a self-sustaining 501c3 that is a valuable community asset. It has a significant presence in Falmouth that could provide a platform for a locally controlled network.

This meeting is convened by:

Courtney Bird   Retired teacher, builder & Cape Cod Marathon Director; Falmouth Conservation Commission member.
Brooks Bartlett   Director, Economic Development & Industrial Corporation, Director, Falmouth Chamber of Commerce.
Peter Cook   Information Systems Department Head, Falmouth Public Library.
Art Gaylord   Co-founder and Chairman Emeritus, OpenCape, retired Information Technology Director, WHOI.
David Isenberg   Distinguished Member of Technical Staff, Bell (AT&T) Labs (retired), former Senior Advisor to the FCC.

YOU are invited!