

## **Taghkanic Broadband Report Monday, November 9, 2020**

The Taghkanic Broadband Committee met on October 21, 2020. We discussed progress with the guide for financial help with internet access costs, begun by Nancy Rutter, that we have been working on. Changes to the working draft were made at the meeting. We determined to make further changes online and complete the guide by Election Day so that copies could be available at Town Hall when voters came in.

With the help of all the committee members, the draft was finalized over the next ten days and Joyce Thompson delivered the printed version to Town Hall on Election Day, November 3rd. We placed a notice on the Fire Company's sign to let people know it was available. The Guide will also be published in the Taghkanic Gazette. In the meantime, Gallatin has reached out to Joyce asking if they could publish the Guide in the Gallatin online newsletter. Permission was granted.

With regards to Internet availability, we believe that high-speed service is available to every address in Taghkanic. Gtel has connected about 300 residents — every resident who requested service. As part of its ongoing marketing effort, they are reaching out to residents who had expressed interest but did not sign up. The company is also expanding into nearby parts of Claverack and Hillsdale. Anyone in a Gtel area need only contact the company to order service. Similarly, those in Mid-Hudson and Consolidated areas can contact these carriers.

Now that Taghkanic does have high-speed internet access throughout, the question arises as to whether our work is finished and how long the Broadband Committee should continue to operate. We will discuss this at our next meeting and report back to the Town Board.

Arthur McGuire  
Chairman  
Taghkanic Broadband Committee