

Public Information Meeting at Town Hall Wednesday, November 2nd

On Warrant Articles for the
Special Town Meeting on December 12th

Broadband from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Nichewaug Inn & Academy Property
from 7:30 to 8:30 pm

Broadband

After almost six years of effort, the Petersham Broadband Committee will, on December 12th, be presenting to the Town a plan for the construction of a 50 Mbs Broadband network that will be fully operational within 24 months after the completion of Make-Ready Work. Because of a “lite as you go” provision, some residents would receive connectivity as early as six months after construction begins. Petersham would pay to prepare its utility poles for fiber optic cable. This \$565,000, which may be largely offset through State grants once the network has been completed, however, represents just one quarter of the total for network construction. The Matrix Design Group would invest \$1,750,000 of their own funding to complete the actual network infrastructure. Matrix would then operate the network in conjunction with the Petersham Broadband MLP.

Contractually, Petersham, through its MLP, would maintain an unprecedented level of control over the network and its ongoing operation with the option of an outright purchase at any time after an initial period of operation. If the Dec 12th funding article passes, Petersham will be well on its way to having a truly world-class Broadband network, capable of connecting 100% of the Town’s homes and businesses to the Internet with faster speeds and which will be far less expensive than the network plans currently being considered by any of the other 40 Central & Western Massachusetts ‘unserved’ towns.

Nichewaug Inn & Academy

The agenda will be to briefly run through the Nichewaug activities since the Special Town Meeting of September 2015 and then go through the 4 warrant articles slated for the Special Town Meeting on December 12th. The recent market and feasibility study by the town’s planning consultant, Ted Carman from Concord Square Planning & Development, is posted on the ‘Nichewaug Property’ page under the ‘Town Business’ tab of the Town’s website, <http://www.townofpetersham.org/> along with a lot of other pertinent information about this property.

All interested residents are strongly encouraged to attend both information sessions.