

## STATUS REPORT

A feasibility study, funded by Falmouth's Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, is in early stages, led by CCG Consulting, a nationally recognized network planning firm.

Feasibility Study will address:

- Falmouth's need for a community network.
- How to build it.
- How much it will cost.
- What kind of entity will operate it. (e.g., town, public-private partnership, OpenCape, utility district.)
- Will it offer telephone and TV in addition to Internet access?
- Rate structure.
- Financing scenarios.

Milestones:

- Study complete, Spring 2020
- Decision time at Town Meeting, November 2020

*[The feasibility] study will turn up valuable information about needs, interests, economic benefits and, of course, costs . . . It will be easier to go to Town Meeting for funding with arguments already laid out in a feasibility study. But it will still be a bold move.*

Editorial, Falmouth Enterprise, 6/14/19

<http://falmouthnet.org>

## COMMUNITY NETWORK BENEFITS

- Competitive choice of Internet services
- High-speed, reliable fiber architecture
- Long-term town asset
- Built to handle summer population
- Growth engine for year-round economy
- Local customer service
- Investment dollars stay in Falmouth
- Prepare for 21st century economy
- Responsive to community needs
- Retain young workforce
- Better healthcare for seniors
- Improved emergency/municipal services

## HELP CREATE OUR COMMUNITY NETWORK

- Visit [FalmouthNet.org](http://FalmouthNet.org) for detailed information and status.
- Join our mailing list at [FalmouthNet.org](http://FalmouthNet.org) for the newest info.
- Join the "Falmouth Community Network" group on Facebook.
- Email us: [info@falmouthnet.org](mailto:info@falmouthnet.org)
- Talk to your friends & neighbors!

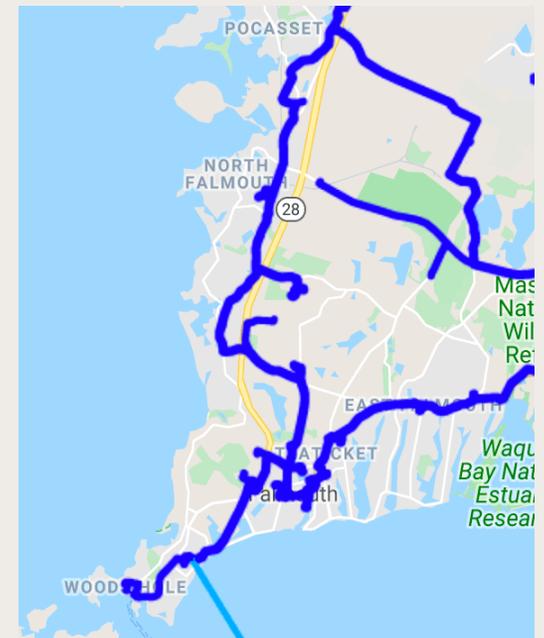
## FALMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK COMMITTEE

Courtney Bird, Peter Cook, Art Gaylord, Sam Houghton, David Isenberg, Marilois Snowman

<http://falmouthnet.org>

# A FALMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

## INVESTING IN FALMOUTH'S FUTURE



*The OpenCape backbone in Falmouth*

A Falmouth Community Network serving residents and visitors would improve Internet access reliability, increase speed, provide local customer service, support year-round jobs and hold down rates.

<http://falmouthnet.org>

## ASSETS & BUILDING BLOCKS

Year-round population: 33,000  
Summer Population: 105,000  
Residences & Businesses: 22,000  
Seasonal single-family homes: 8500  
Road miles: 450 (state, public, private)

### OPENCAPE: FALMOUTH'S 'ACE IN THE HOLE'

OpenCape is a "middle mile" fiberoptic backbone serving Cape Cod, the Islands and southeastern New England. It was built with public monies and it is operated as a non-profit, open-access network. Its 350-mile network was completed in 2013.

OpenCape has 40 miles of backbone in Falmouth and is connecting about 200 libraries, government buildings, schools, colleges, hospitals, public safety agencies, research institutions and businesses, including about 65 businesses on Main Street, Falmouth. OpenCape's role is a key focus of the Feasibility Study.

*OpenCape never went down throughout last week's storm [10/17/19], not for a minute. I'm looking forward to the results of the Falmouth Community Network feasibility study.* Bill Hough, Editor, Falmouth Enterprise, October 2019

## NEED FOR A FALMOUTH COMMUNITY NETWORK

*Internet access is a necessary component of commerce and communication. Reliability is paramount . . . the reliability of a municipal broadband system connected to OpenCape is reason enough to hope that the small group that proposed [the Falmouth Community Network] will gain widespread support.*

Editorial, Falmouth Enterprise, August 9, 2019

*[A community network] helps with our business, it helps with our education and our youth, both retaining and attracting that younger population as well.*

Robert Egan, network technologist, Falmouth resident, June 2019

*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.*

[FalmouthNet.org](http://FalmouthNet.org) Web site

*Communities are leading the way to connect their residents and businesses to high quality internet access. As local businesses and residents demand better Internet options, local governments have stepped up with a variety of approaches from citywide municipal networks to incremental fiber-optic investments to partnerships to conduit systems to encourage competition.*

Chris Mitchell, community network expert, Institute for Local Self Reliance, June 2017

*A reliable internet, a reliable connection is very important for modern workforces.*

Josef M. Kellndorfer, founder, Earth Big Data, LLC, Falmouth Resident, June 2019

*The best way for this town to grow is through home businesses, knowledgeable workers in their homes doing consulting around the world, but they have to have that internet service for that to happen.*

Samuel Patterson, Falmouth Selectman, June 2019

*Falmouth has a digital divide that I see in my professional work. Not everyone can afford Internet service, but they need it for school and work.*

Peter Cook, Information Technology manager, West Falmouth resident

*The Internet is a tremendous educational tool, but students in homes without Internet service, most often due to cost, are behind the eight ball. A community network, run as a public service, could help erase that inequality!*

Tom Bushy, Principal, Lawrence School