

WICKED LOCAL PEMBROKE

NEWS FROM THE PEMBROKE MARINER & EXPRESS

Pembroke not equipped for fiber optic services, says Verizon

Suggested Stories

[Pembroke Community Center committee to be established](#)

[Truck exclusion proposed for Duxbury](#)

[Goals outlined for Pembroke's Community Center Task Force](#)

From the Web

[Time to hang up on your landline? \(BankRate.com\)](#)

[Why You Should Cancel Your Cell Phone Contract \(Daily Finance\)](#)

[5 Celebs Who Regret Getting Plastic Surgery -- and Should \(PHOTOS\) \(The Stir By CafeMom\)](#)

[Sponsored content](#) [What's this?](#)

A representative of Verizon was present at the selectmen's meeting Monday night to untangle the reasons Pembroke doesn't offer Verizon Fios services.

In recent months members of the board have received phone calls and e-mails asking why they have "blocked" Verizon from selling Fios in town.

Selectmen wanted to clear up any misunderstandings Monday. The reason Verizon can't offer its package deals is the town is not equipped with the right wiring.

"It's not the town preventing residents, it's a corporate decision," said Verizon's regional director of external affairs, Richard Colon. "The fact is, we can't build it fast enough. Verizon knows there is a demand here. There is high demand for cable competition, but the practicality is there isn't enough capital to make it all happen at once."

According to selectmen, Colon has been before the board to discuss a similar issue, almost on a yearly basis.

"We need to revisit this issue from time to time," he said last Monday night.

Colon said that Fios will not be offered to Pembroke this year, but it will be reexamined at the end of the year.

"I only know what we have planned and committed for this calendar year. We will know more as we get closer to the fourth quarter," he said.

Selectmen wanted residents to know they were not stopping Verizon from doing business in town; rather, they encourage Verizon to start negotiations in town because currently the town has one service provider — Comcast.

"We are anxious for Verizon in Pembroke," said selectmen Chairman Terry Finnegan. "In the meantime, while we wait, we want the public to know we want it as much as anyone else, but it really is up to them at this point."

Selectman Donal Anderson agreed. "We want the open competition," he said.

By having competitive rates, residents would have a wider range of options, and so would the town.

Town Administrator Edwin Thorne said when he signed up for Internet for the Town Hall, he only had the one option.

"I get e-mails all the time saying 'Why doesn't the board sign a contract (with Fios)?'" said Thorne. "It's not that simple."

Thorne said the southern part of town and Bryantville need to be rewired to accommodate the FIOS capabilities. Phone numbers that start with 293 and 294 come out of Bryantville, and anybody with those numbers hasn't been "hooked up yet." Those with numbers 826 or 829 do have the wiring.

"We understand the makeup of the community. We know how it is laid out. We understand communities around Pembroke have Fios. We are looking at that and discussing what it will take to provide the services here," said Colon. "Unfortunately, no one has a crystal ball to see what the allocations will look like for 2010."

Selectman Bill Boulter asked about Verizon representatives selling bundled "Triple Play" packages door to door in town, when the package isn't even available.

Colon assured Boulter that wasn't the case, and if there was an issue of it happening to contact him with specific incidents so it could be handled.

Thorne said the town has been waiting for Fios for years,

"It just isn't in their capital plan for 2009. But we will revisit the discussion again in 2010," said Thorne. "Although, that's what they said in 2007."

Copyright 2009 Pembroke Mariner & Express. Some rights reserved

Comments (1)

pdBerg

3 years ago

Report Abuse

You must be logged in to report abuse.

Report Abuse

Lower cable-internet-phone rates resulting from competitive service providers is a bald-faced myth. No such savings occur. Granted, so-called Introductory Offers provide a lower rate, sometimes for as much as a year. But when all is said and done, it cost about \$99 per month to have the three services. Legislators and other