



Broadband Project Update

Hello all,

We ended up on June 30th with 135 commitments or 39% of our goal of 350. Unfortunately, we are not close enough to our goal to be able to submit the grant on July 15th.

It is not financially feasible for South Park Telephone to invest in fiber infrastructure without the assurance they will have enough customers in our neighborhoods to provide a return on that investment.

While this is disappointing, the three neighborhoods (Mountain View Lakes, Woodside and Elk Falls Ranch) and Staunton State Park met tonight and decided to stay in the game and pursue the January 2021 grant cycle. (When I think about how fast July came around, January will be here before we know it too!)

Since what we did this go-round was only partially successful, we want to hold a strategy meeting in late August to talk about what we (the neighborhood champions and South Park Telephone) can do differently. I already have a list of suggestions from residents who have emailed me or offered ideas on our Facebook Group Page. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom and residents will be encouraged to attend. Once we have the date pinned down, I will let you know.

We hope that you will be willing to keep your commitment active (We need every one we can get!!). However, if you do not want to participate in the January 2021 grant process, you are welcome to request a refund. Email [David Shipley](mailto:dshipley@usch.com) (dshipley@usch.com) at South Park Telephone with your request.

Since we are moving forward with the grant for January 2021, we are still collecting commitments and at least \$250 towards the \$500 installation fee. Please send in your commitment if you want high-speed fiber internet. Link to online commitments: <https://www.southparktelephone.com/staunton-state-park-commitment-form/>. Remember, the **\$500 is fully refundable** if we do not get enough commitments or do not get the grant.

As always, let me know if you have questions.

Bev Long
Chair Broadband Committee and EFR Champion
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How to Learn More about the Broadband Initiative

For real-time updates join our [Facebook Group](#). The site is called [Broadband Initiative - Staunton, Elk Falls Ranch, Mt. View Lakes & Woodside](#). Please join the group so you can stay informed.

Our website, 285broadband.com, also houses information, links and documents related

to the project and is updated frequently.

What is a commitment?

A commitment means you agree to sign up for high-speed internet fiber from South Park Telephone if we are awarded the grant. Commitments, which include the \$500 installation fee, help us determine the *real interest* (demand) for this service. It is not a sustainable business model for [South Park Telephone](#) if enough demand isn't truly there.
