

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Charlemont Town Hall

Attending: Bob Handsaker, Trevor Mackie, Doug White, Mary Ellen Banks, Ken Hall, Cheryl Handsaker

Missing: Bill Tucci

Meeting called to order at 6:05

1. Approval of minutes from 7/2/2019

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Minutes approved unanimously

2. Status of Make-Ready

- a. All 16 applications are back. 78 pole replacements needed. WG&E is challenging 29 of these. Our reconciliation is expected soon but WG&E will follow up.
 - i. E5 form will be requested once the information is complete
- b. Contract with National Grid still outstanding
 - i. Broadband Committee will bring how to handle the National Grid contract to the Selectboard. Broadband Committee believes signing this is OK like other towns.
 - 1. **ACTION TAKEN:** Recommend to the Selectboard that they decide whether to continue to pursue a better contract from National Grid or sign the contract as is as other towns have done. The broadband committee recommends signing the offered contract. If the town decides to pursue a better contract, we recommend the legal expenses are not charged to broadband. Voted unanimously.
- c. Hawk Hill Rd. & Heath Stage Terrace procurement
 - i. **ACTION TAKEN:** Recommend that we put the underground installation Hawk Hill Rd and Heath Stage Terrace out to bid using procurement services from the FRCOG. Voted unanimously.

- ii. Next action: Doug will draft a copy of the scope of work.
- iii. Bob and Trevor will request plans for the other side of the road from WG&E and an updated BOM.
- iv. Charlemont could reach out in advance of the work to DigSafe?
Next action: Doug will figure out DigSafe.
- v. Police details, if needed, will be paid for by the town.
- d. Town Hall Exterior
 - i. ConCom has provided our negative determination of applicability.
 - 1. EMD will provide and manage shrubbery as required by the Conservation Commission.
 - ii. Easements - We hope to ask Kathy to be proactive about making the easements happen. We will leave the information with Kathy for the property owners to come in to have a notarized signature.
 - iii. Procurement - Amy Wales has advised on the needed language in the procurement for this project. Bob will send Doug the notes.
 - iv. Materials - who provides these?
 - v. WG&E will be invited to inspect.
- e. Railroads
 - i. No update on railroads. Trevor & Bob will be meeting tomorrow on the railroad plans.
 - ii. Have pole applications been in place for South River Road? New poles on Tower Rd?

3. Status of NEE

- a. Members of the committee will reach out to ensure the bid deadline of Friday, July 12 is met.
- b. Quotes are being received at the FRCOG, decision must be made within 30 days.
- c. Broadband members receiving the bid will send all quotes to full committee and the BOS in advance of the Monday, June 29th BOS meeting.

4. Status of Distribution Network

- a. Review Distribution Network Policy Draft

- b. ACTION TAKEN: Broadband Committee has approved the Distribution Network Policy. Approved unanimously. MLP manager accepted the policy as approved.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HFIO9IO6gRW7f2imuu_cEoq9DKVzeHLWLeVpT-iFAsM/edit?usp=sharing

5. Continue Drop Policy Discussion

- a. No action taken.

6. Communication

- a. Facebook presence for Charlemont Connect
- b. Twitter?

7. Status of Wired West Refunds

- a. Nothing new this week.

8. Status of additional funding sources

- a. Following the ReConnect public comments.
- b. Library funding opportunities are not available to this year.

Next meeting: July 16th at 6 PM.

Upcoming meeting: July 29 at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 PM