

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Monday, September 30, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Charlemont Town Hall

Attending: Trevor Mackie, Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker, Doug White

The meeting posting was too late for this to be an official meeting, so no actions will be taken and the meeting will be informational only.

- 1. Approval of minutes from 9/23/2019** - will be reviewed

- 2. Status of NEE** - Obear will be starting in a couple of weeks, he will call before he begins. Broadband committee will work to coordinate these vendors as needed. WG&E and Danek Excavation will coordinate the delivery of materials.

- 3. Status of Make-Ready**
 - a. Status of utility applications - we have 5 National Grid applications outstanding. Two of these are complete but we have not received them so we will be approved. Two more have had the amounts raised. Concern expressed about our inability to check these numbers in anyway.
 - b. Town Hall Exterior - We anticipate that this will be awarded tonight by the Selectboard.
 - c. Traffic-Calming
 - i. Doug will follow up with DOT for the traffic calming work.
 - d. Railroads
 - i. Long Bridge - National Grid misunderstood our question, WG&E will follow up and determine our way forward.
 - ii. Tower Road - pole hearing for west end of Tower Rd. is next Monday. One call from a resident, Bob followed up and resident is satisfied.
 - iii. South River Road - WG&E is going to check if the application has been filed.
 - iv. West Hawley Road residence - pole was removed from our application. We have reached out to WG&E regarding some alternate approaches. Does Nokia have a hardened ONT? If so, need the specification. Approximately 750' distance for point to point. Are there

better/ different solutions if we are looking at only 300'? Span wires at 16.5 ft.

4. Status of Distribution Network

- a. Heath Stage Terrace/ Hawk Hill Rd - Note from Sertex about relaxing the specifications in the future to save money. We may follow up this winter to learn more. WG&E used to use them as a vendor but no longer do.
 - i. Discussion of the Selectboard conversation regarding the next steps. A decision will be made in the spring.
 - ii. Consider early outreach for pre-subscription.

5. Schedule

- a. How should we move ahead with scheduling? CBC should produce schedule and dovetail.
- b. Nothing can begin until Verizon signs off completely
- c. Distribution construction is estimated at 1 mile/ week
- d. Drop and Distribution network can overlap. Consider FSA by FSA light up to hit .
 - i. Installer can typically do two / day
- e. WG&E as OPM and procurement is a package. Outreach to other towns to see if there is more items. Consider looking at this at our next meeting.
- f. WG&E as ISP? How is drop policy/ pricing related to drops and installation?
- g. Neighboring town agreements?
- h. NEE online
- i. Sign up campaign in May of 2020.
- j. Training for conduit for next summer
- k. Bob will ask Jay about what terms of commitment.
- l. Bob and Trevor are working on the PPR report with TriWire pricing is increasing our internal costs by \$50,000 - \$100,000 installation.

6. Project Finance Update

- a. Temporary borrowing with plan to replace this by June 30 or ReConnect or anticipation note.

7. Continue Drop Policy Discussion

- a. Block out time in a future meeting - check town policies.

8. Communication Notes

- a. Library workshop series?
- b. Reach out to Dale Bulmer for information about contact
- c. Ask Carla and Mary to suggest ideas for outreach

9. Status of Wired West Refunds

- a. Check in on the WiredWest

10. Any other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours in advance of meeting

Next meeting: Monday, Oct 7 @ 6PM