

# **CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

**Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Tyler Memorial Library**

**Attending: Trevor Mackie, Cheryl Handsaker, Doug White, Mary Ellen, Bob Handsaker**

**Guests: Francie Hall, Richard Hall, Sandy Hanks, Phyllis Herrera, Dot Lyman**

## **1. Approval of minutes from 10/15/2019**

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

## **2. Status of NEE**

- a. Status of Obear contract
  - i. No communication with OBear.

## **3. Status of Make-Ready**

- a. Status of utility applications
  - i. Still missing one application from N. Grid.
- b. Town Hall Exterior
  - i. Delivery on Weds.
  - ii. Gordon has agreed to offload materials
  - iii. Tom Danek will be notified of the delivery
- c. Railroads
  - i. Long Bridge
    - 1. No update on the long bridge. We spoke with Michael Tatro of National Grid about the situation. We will be in touch again soon.
  - ii. Tower Road
    - 1. Initial set of drawings available from WG&E, sent to Eagle One. Redone for 27'. Drawings are prepared for the full height at 40' poles. No primary space is available.
    - 2. Check with the 2-3 hour billing for the crossing.
    - 3. Eagle One is moving forward
  - iii. South River Road
    - 1. Application is in. Check request is in to the accountant and should be in process.
  - iv. West Hawley Road residence
    - 1. No update.

## **4. Status of Distribution Network**

- a. Update on design Heath Stage Terrace and Hawk Hill Rd. following Select Board decision.
  - i. Select Board approved underground conduit.
  - ii. WG&E should be notified of final design decision.
    - 1. Should we discuss a less expensive solution with vendors this winter?
    - 2. WG&E will give us a definitive price quote.
    - 3. Bob will get information on the Sertex approach to see if it will save us money.
- b. Traffic Calming conversation with Mike Tatro of National Grid to insure the work is done once.

## 5. Project Schedule Update

- a. No update

## 6. Project Finance Update

- a. WG&E Contract updates
  - i. Bob has updated the budget with the latest information based on the extended scope of work.
  - ii. 1.25% + 6% for procurement + PM on the distribution contract.
  - iii. Cost of the BOM - 1% + cost of material, WG&E materials 4.32% at cost.
  - iv. Bob will ask WG&E to provide extended information on Section four.
- b. Status of additional funding sources
  - i. First reconnect grants have been awarded

## 7. Continue Drop Policy Discussion

- a. Review of existing policies as available.
  - i. Ask Bill Ennen to send us the links about drop policy
  - ii. Trevor will reach out to Bill Ennen to get a list of other town drop policies

## 8. Communication Notes

- a. Heath Stage Terrace and Hawk Hill Road Q&A
  - i. **Total monthly cost & what it includes - Internet. Phone & TV ?** At this time we continue to project \$79 / month, 1 Gb/sec up/down, no data caps. This includes only internet service. It is an additional \$23/month for phone. TV is not planned to be part of the initial offering package but offerings such as Hulu Live

offer live sports and a lineup comparable to Comcast cable packages for \$45/month.

1. Ooma phone systems were discussed. Needs power to make calls.

ii. **Local channels ?**

We haven't looked at a lot of the programming options in detail. Bob and I do get "local" channels out of Springfield.

iii. **Does Broadband offer different channel packages ?**

Because we don't include TV, we don't offer packages the way cable does. There are many options for internet TV packages, depending on your interests.

iv. **Does the installing of this system cover connecting to the residence ?**

Installing to the residence will only be done for those that take service. We hope to have incentives in place to encourage signups as we are wiring neighborhoods as this is the most cost effective solution. Although we haven't finalized the "drop policies", we expect to cover the first \$1400 of the cost of connecting to the residence. Most people in town will find the installation to be less than this amount. We connect to the house based on the existing utility path. Again, Heath Stage Terrace is a bit unique as most folks have direct bury utilities and we cannot install via this method. For underground utilities, we intend to run a conduit underground and then pull the fiber through to a small box mounted on the outside of the home. Then the fiber will be run inside the home for those that take service to a box mounted typically in the basement. There is a wireless modem and some interior wiring included. We hope to hold workshops next summer to allow homeowners to install the conduit themselves & their neighbors to specifications given to us by our designer to both save time and money - the "barn-raising" approach.

b. Wired West communications with folks without provided email contact information.

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

a. Consideration of the Broadband Committee as special town employees.

Next meeting: October 28 @ 6PM

Adjourned: 8:52