

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Nov 12 at 6:00 pm at the Charlemont Town Hall.

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

Guest: Phil Banks

1. Approval of minutes from 11/4/2019

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Unanimously approved.

2. Status of NEE

- a. Status of Obear contract
 - i. Bob has followed up. No response.

3. Status of Make-Ready

- a. Status of utility applications
 - i. No update
- b. Town Hall Exterior
 - i. Danek Excavating has completed most of the work.
 - ii. Punch list
 - 1. No strings coming out of the risers at the poles. Check in on the installation of pull strings.
 - 2. Seal tops of the risers.
 - 3. Cap the end of the conduit.
 - 4. Bring in loam and bring it flush with the grade
 - 5. Asphalt patch on the sidewalk
 - 6. Vault bolts need to be installed
 - 7. Mortar and seal the foundation
 - 8. Use the conduit next to the wall and keep the other as a spare.
 - 9. Excess materials (sweeps, etc.) - why?
 - iii. Weather cap for conduit into the riser.
- c. Railroads
 - i. Long Bridge
 - 1. WG&E sent the National Grid sketch of the long bridge. Very expensive (\$90,000). Looking for alternatives.
 - 2. Town will try to go behind the crossarms on the road and if it needs to be on the west side of the gate and be higher than the minimum for crossing.
 - a. Doug shared the road plans for the area of the crossing.
 - b. Directional drilling could be an alternative, but we're not sure about the cost and permissioning needed from the railroads.

- i. Consider trenching up to the tracks, then under.
 - ii. Bob will contact Eagle One for advice.
 - ii. Tower Road
 - 1. Response from the railroad, we are approved.
 - 2. Bob to follow up with Mike Twidle.
 - 3. Contractor will need to contact the real estate office for insurance and access rules.
 - 4. Bob will ask WG&E about rigid conduit, who runs it and when.
 - iii. South River Road
 - 1. No update.
 - iv. West Hawley Road residence
 - 1. No update.

4. **Status of Distribution Network**

- a. Next actions on design Heath Stage Terrace and Hawk Hill Rd. following Select Board decision.
 - i. Do we want to relax the specifications to allow for 24" plowed install? WG&E is concerned about the potential quality of this approach.
 - ii. Consider procurement in the new year but not begin until July 2020.

5. **Project Schedule Update**

6. **Project Finance Update**

- a. Payments/ Income of Broadband project
- b. Status of additional funding sources

7. **Drop Policy Discussion**

a. **Draft document:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z9p8iX0vQde_2zC6GhUfvWSo5954CE5EtKG43CE0rkA/edit?usp=sharing

- i. Set a drop dead drop date after which subsidizes will not be available.
- ii. Homeowner allowed to install conduit to save money, customer conduit would need to meet specifications, and pricing would be set as "existing conduit" to calculate the customer installation cost.
- iii. Remove premise requirements, installation meets the environmental standards for installation.
 - 1. Needs to consistently available power
 - 2. Weather-proof housing for the ONT
 - 3. 2 year commitment
- iv. Property Access from - get these from other towns.

v. Separate interior/ exterior costs \$1000/ \$400

8. Communication Notes

a. Workshop planning?

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

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

Next meeting, Monday Nov 18, 2019 @ 6PM