

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Monday, June 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Meeting was held via conference call

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Trevor Mackie, Mary Ellen Banks, and Cheryl Handsaker; Doug White joined at 6:35.

MISSING: Ken Hall, Bill Tucci

GUEST: Dick Early, Tri-Wire

Meeting begun 6:02

1. Approve Minutes and Meeting Notes from 5/26/2020

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Approve the meeting notes as written. Mary Ellen - yes, Trevor- abstain, Bob- yes, Cheryl-yes.

2. Status of NEE

- a. Update on Construction
 - i. Bob reached out to Obear regarding the electrical review.

3. Status of Make-Ready

- a. New poles near Shun Pike
 - i. Who owns these poles? Will Grid relocate the primary lines to the new poles.
 - ii. Should we include slack loops so the relocation would be seamless?
 - iii. Write to WG&E regarding National Grid's future planning for those poles
 - iv. Bob will reach out regarding whether there was a pole hearing for the solar farm at 727 Tea Street.
 - v. Trevor will reach out to the owner to see if there is a need for service in this area. Planning Board may have this information.
- b. Long Bridge
 - i. Status of B2 cost
 1. This has been invoiced and a check has been a request for National Grid.
 - ii. Timeline for construction
 1. No update
 - iii. New poles for Long Bridge are delivered and waiting to be installed.
- c. Tower Road
 - i. Timeline for construction
 1. No update.
- d. West Hawley Road residence

- i. Reach out to Chris Gray again. Using new program; should have something ready soon.
- e. Town Hall Exterior
 - i. Remediation has not been completed.
 - ii. Reach out to Tom Danek about Town Hall remediation

4. Status of Distribution Network

- a. Path preparation status (Heath Stage Terrace, Hawk Hill Rd., Warner Hill Rd.)
 - i. Status of bid awards
 - 1. Bids have been received: Warner Hill and Hawk Hill Rd. - Danek Excavating is the lowest bidder; Heath Stage Terrace - Tri-wire was the low bidder.
 - 2. Heath Stage Terrace
 - a. WG&E will finish the bid certification this week now that Chris LaVertue is back from vacation.
 - b. Selectboard has asked us to confirm the WG&E estimate and if there is anything we can do to reduce the construction numbers. Jordan Hawes at Tri-wire would be the internal personnel at Tri-Wire to work with us.
 - 3. Warner Hill - waiting on the bid certification
 - 4. Hawk Hill Road
 - a. WG&E met with National Grid and expressed concern about our design plan. Utilities are direct-bury and planned for replacement in the next few years.
 - b. WG&E will reach out to National Grid to see if they can accelerate conduit installation and include our conduit at the same time.
 - c. WG&E recommends the other side of the road for the conduit project, perhaps with a town owned pole. Not an ideal solution. The Highway Superintendent has asked for all of this to be on one side of the road.
 - b. Status of edge cases
 - i. Rowe IRUs
 - 1. Both towns have agreed to allow KP Law to do the work.

5. Insurance Update

- a. MIIA has responded and confirmed that the insurance is coming in at around \$10,000 with a \$10,000 deductible.
- b. Find out what an acceptable tree-trimming policy would be.
- c. CBC will review the insurance document and come with questions next week.
- d. Doug will reach out to see if there are examples of tree trimming and cable maintenance agreements.

6. Drops

- a. Review and amend the Drop Policy to clarify the handling of Multi-Dwelling Units.
 - i. ACTION TAKEN: Amend the [drop policy](#) to clarify the subsidies for multi-dwelling units sharing a single building.
 - 1. Mary Ellen - yes, Trevor- yes, Bob- yes, Cheryl-yes, Doug-yes
- b. .

7. Project Finance Update

- a. Finance update
 - i. Checking with Unibank about borrowing
 - ii. Allow the borrowing to come from \$8500 of free cash, replaced in the new year.
- b. Status of warrant article language
 - i. When is Town Meeting? Not before the end of the new fiscal year. Elections will happen but not ATM.
- c. 2021 budget update
- d. Status of additional funding sources
 - i. Status of additional COVID-19 related funding.
 - ii. Cheryl is following up on CARES act funding with the FRCOG
 - iii. Cheryl reach out to Christine Kimball regarding RDBG award date,

8. ISP Discussion

- a. Follow up on ISP / NO questions
 - i. Bob sent questions to WG&E regarding ISP.
 - ii. Review email from WG&E sent 5/29/2020 as it might clarify some of the questions we have.
 - iii. See if we want to amend our questions for these folks.

9. Project Schedule Update

- a. Project plan review - ISP agreement and selection of drop contractors is a risk if Verizon accelerates the timeline, given the pace of WG&E response.

10. Communication Notes

- a. Wired West closure

- b. Town of Waltham request to join a future meeting.
- c. Hotspot
 - i. Check for speedtest at Hawlemont
 - ii. Doug celebrated the download speed!
 - iii. Cheryl will check with Rich Carnell regarding usage stats

Next June 8, 2020 @ 6PM

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 PM