

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Held via conference call.

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

MISSING: Ken Hall, Bill Tucci

Meeting begun 6:05

1. Approve Minutes and Meeting Notes from 6/1/2020

a. ACTION TAKEN; Vote to approve the minutes from 6/1/2020

- i. Mary Ellen - abstain, Trevor- yes, Bob- yes, Cheryl-yes, Doug-yes

2. Status of NEE

a. Update on Construction

- i. NEE electric should have been completed. Bob will check in on the status later today.

3. Status of Make-Ready

a. Long Bridge

- i. Timeline for construction - only application outstanding, poles at Long Bridge are in!

b. Tower Road

- i. Timeline for construction - can be scheduled anytime after July 1, Pole locations have been marked.

c. West Hawley Road residence

- i. No update.

d. Town Hall Exterior

- i. Bob has exchanged email with Tom Danek; Tom will wait for the work restoration from National Grid to be done.

4. Status of Distribution Network

a. Path preparation status (Heath Stage Terrace, Hawk Hill Rd., Warner Hill Rd.)

i. HST

1. expecting Select Board feedback.
2. Meeting scheduled with TriWire and at HST on Weds at 10am regarding cost cutting
 - a. Lawn restoration?
 - b. Asphalt restoration done by the homeowner or the town

- c. Concurrent drops
 - ii. Hawk Hill Rd.
 - 1. Asking National Grid whether they will replace their direct buried utilities with conduit, they are considering this possibility.
 - a. Check for separate handhold or at least a foot of separation encased by concrete.
 - iii. Recommendations will be issued once all are determined.
- b. Status of edge cases
 - i. Rowe IRUs
 - 1. Rowe IRUs have been reviewed by Bob, and he will recommend Select Board
 - 2. ACTION TAKEN: Vote to approve our MLP Manager, Bob Handsaker, recommend to the Select Board sign the corrected IRUs.
 - a. Mary Ellen - yes, Trevor- yes, Bob- yes, Cheryl-yes, Doug-yes

5. Insurance Update

- a. MIIA Update
 - i. Tree clearing clause, majority of the tree trimming will be handled by the utility
 - ii. Repair agreement - Two prices - 5% discount if you have a repair agreement. Damage repair with the Network Operator covers us for that discount.
 - iii. Next year we will need a new quote because it is a year away.

6. Drops

- a. PPU Report review
 - i. Chris L. will get us a new PPU report that includes both consultation fees and DigSafe will be in the report.
 - ii. Review the numbers to see what the results of the underground drops costs for subsidy.

7. Project Finance Update

- a. Status of warrant article language
 - i. Ask Select Board about next action
- b. 2021 budget update
 - i. Bob revised the budget for financing. Borrowing in two tranches , preconstruction & construction. Preconstruction for path procurement, equipment room, tree trimming. Timing is uncertain for the remaining borrowing.
 - ii. Meeting with Unibank tomorrow morning to discuss borrowing.

- iii. Tower Rd project can move forward on July 1 based on funding to pay for this when ready. 4-8 weeks to use State House Notes.
- c. Status of additional funding sources
 - i. Status of additional COVID-19 related funding.

8. ISP Discussion

- a. Follow up on ISP / NO questions
 - i. Rich Carnall has circulated answers to our list of questions. Will discuss next week.
 - ii. Clarification on some of the amendments.
 - iii. DigSafe - WG&E will be our DigSafe representative for regulatory compliance.
 - 1. DROPS vs Distribution - WG&E will clarify
 - iv. What are we paying for \$300/ hour for assessment? What do we get for this money?
 - v. Cost/mile is not included?
 - vi. Team agreed to review amendments and send written comments.

9. Project Schedule Update

- a. Project plan review
 - i. ISP decision should be made soon. Focus on this for the next meeting.

10. Communication Notes

- a. Wired West closure
 - i. Not addressed

Next meeting June 15 @ 6PM.

Adjourned at 7PM to join the selectboard meeting.