

## **CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

**June 26, 2020, 6PM**

**Proceedings held via this conference call.**

**ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Doug White, Mary Ellen Banks, Ken Hall, Trevor Mackie, Cheryl Handsaker**

**MISSING: Bill Tucci**

**GUESTS: Christian Berg, Star Atkenson, Valentine Reid, The Walshes (Hawk Hill Rd)**

### **1. Approve Minutes and Meeting Notes from 6/22/2020**

#### **a. ACTION TAKEN: Approve Meeting Notes from 6/22/2020**

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

### **2. Status of NEE**

#### **a. Update on Construction**

##### **i. Water sensor decision**

1. Looking for guidance on the water sensor. Doug tried to find the model that we were suggesting when the spec was written without success.
2. AC powered is OK if that is what is available. UPS + Generator, the would be available. WiFi alert is needed.
3. We can relax the DC power requirement in the specification
4. Trevor and Doug will recommend sensor for Obear by end of day, June 30.

##### **ii. Bob will stop by and check basement**

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

#### **a. Long Bridge**

- i. No update

#### **b. Tower Road**

- i. No update

#### **c. West Hawley Road residence**

- i. No update

#### **d. Town Hall Exterior**

- i. No update

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

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

i. Hawk Hill Rd.

1. Installation of conduit has been out to bid. Tom Danek was the winning bidder. Bid specs specified the same side as National Grid. Grid has direct bury utilities and has asked for Charlemont conduit to be on the other side.
2. WG&E met with National Grid to discuss the project and National Grid felt we should not install conduit on the same side as the electrical lines. National Grid was approached about accelerating the replacement of the electrical conduit and installing Charlemont conduit. National Grid's preference was to put in utility poles rather than replace with underground utilities in that section. National Grid would bear the full cost of the pole sets.
3. Broadband discussed the proposal with the Highway Department. Neutral to slightly positive about moving to aerial.
4. Broadband discussed this with two of three Selectboard as individuals. Both are Neutral to slightly positive about moving to aerial.
5. Trevor expressed concern regarding liability for damage if we install our own conduit on the other side of the road.
6. Grid would like to ask the town to assess the sentiment on the road with a meeting. The Walshes would like to be included in a meeting to be scheduled. Pole hearing would follow if this meeting is favorable. We would first determine if there is resident opposition to the poles, if not we can move forward quickly.
7. Electric will only be aerial on the road, service to homes remains as it is today, either underground or aerial.
8. Would Grid be willing to install the poles immediately? Grid indicated this could be complete within 6 months, probably much sooner.
9. Bob will reach out to National Grid tomorrow to ask about next actions.
10. Meeting will be scheduled to clarify the option for the residents. How do we engage with the residents of the road? Maybe we can get a letter out to impacted residents. Would we invite everyone or only those whose homes are impacted? Pole hearing list would be abutters within 300'.
11. **ACTION TAKEN:** Broadband Committee will support an outdoor gathering of the residents affected by the underground path preparation on Hawk Hill Rd.

- a. Trevor - yes, Mary Ellen- yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob- yes, Doug- yes, Ken- yes
  - ii. Heath Stage Terrace
    - 1. Nine residents have expressed interest so far. The Select Board will decide what is needed.
    - 2. Add to the Select Board agenda to discuss how we move forward.
  - iii. Warner Hill Rd
    - 1. Would like to get this contract awarded. Still waiting on vendor approval from WG&E
    - 2. Spoke with the Highway Dept, ask vendor to notify Broadband Committee and Highway Dept before the work begins.
- b. Status of edge cases
  - i. Rowe IRU
    - 1. Kathy will round up signatures needed on the IRU and then we will get it to Rowe by mail.
    - 2. Charlemont Selectboard has approved in phone meeting.

## **5. ISP Contact**

- a. Contract and amendment draft review: Bob and Cheryl went over all the contract issues and will meet with WG&E tomorrow.

## **6. Drops**

- a. Automated Drop reports is not completed

## **7. Project Finance Update**

- a. 2021 budget update
  - i. No update
- b. Status of additional funding sources
  - i. RDBG grant funding should be awarded July 1. All paperwork confirmed complete.
  - ii. Discussed other non-governmental sources of possible funding

## **8. Project Schedule Update**

- a. Verizon make-ready remains the schedule driver. Path prep and ISP contract continue to be areas of concern but all are moving forward.

## **9. Communication Notes**

- a. Wired West closure - no update

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

- a. Form to express interest in the service prior to the launch of the formal signup campaign with ISP. See email from Paris Finley and others.
  - i. Committee approved a simple form that will allow people to express interest and be notified when the formal sign-up process begins.
- b. Guests joining asked about purchasing a home in Charlemont and about the timeline of the project.
  - i. Project continues to be driven by the Verizon schedule and will continue to anticipate service in 2021.
- c. Select Board has scheduled a town meeting. Budget only. Broadband can prepare an informational one pager about the project for the ATM for distribution.
- d. Slight design change for the solar farm new poles. Tom Broderick has been sent the new pole locations, we should be adding additional cable. We should come out to the road as it makes more sense for us to stay with the electric lines for stability and for maintenance. Add additional fiber to accommodate the move. New poles are licensed and we need to make sure that these new locations are in the design.

Next meeting: Monday, July 6, 2020 @ 6PM

Meeting adjourned 7:17 pm