

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Valentine Reid, Mary Ellen Banks, Doug White, Cheryl Handsaker, Ken Hall (left early), Trevor Mackie (joined late)

1. Approve Minutes and Meeting Notes from 3/22/2021

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Cheryl=yes, Bob=yes, Valentine - yes, Mary Ellen - yes, Doug=yes

2. Status of Make-Ready

- a. West Hawley Road residence
 - i. We have gotten an estimate about possible service. Gather questions, and have discussion.
 - 1. What is the total cost?
 - 2. Concerns about the size of the dish that is planned. Would Grid allow this on the pole?
 - 3. How will we provide power to this location? Trevor will reach out to Grid.
 - ii. Make a recommendation for the BOM
 - 1. Split the cost with the homeowner 50%/50%, drop subsidy is included in this cost.
- b. Thunder Mountain Lane residence
 - i. Owner has signed up
- c. Town Hall Exterior
- d. Town Hall Generator
 - i. Town Administrator explained that April is the expected delivery, with a May installation
- e. Hawk Hill Rd
 - i. No update
- f. Warner Hill Rd.
 - i. No update

3. Distribution Network

- a. FSA 01 is completely strung, just waiting on splicing. 1-2 weeks for the splicers expected.
- b. Crews would be removed from Charlemont but they were here this week. Perhaps the 'big easement' will be done next week.
- c. Bob checked the basement of the town hall. The fibers coming into the basement have had some putty applied for weatherization. Bob didn't check the exterior.
- d. Shunpike tree trimming
 - i. Ask for an access permit from the state
 - ii. Trimming it back to under 40" below the secondary
 - iii. Bob will reach out to Niles Tree Service
 - iv. Should be a reimbursable make-ready, Bob will move it forward.

2. Hub Electronics

- a. Charlemont needs to accelerate the WG&E schedule because of grant conditions.

4. Drops

- a. ConCom update
 - i. Meeting scheduled for April 7.
- b. Schedule for underground consultations
 - i. No update

- c. Review the Assessors list where it is different from the design
 - i. Bob has reviewed the remaining FSAs. Need to know how to reach John Dumphy, the old church across from Wells Store. 165 Main two apartments. Also owned Heath Stage Apts.
 - ii. Sargent- Currently a single family home.
 - iii. Slowinsky/ Bellows - Bob to check with Sarah for contact information. Check number of units.
- d. South River Rd condos
 - i. Small change after site visit. No basement, no attic so revised the plan to support this new plan and will give us a new estimate.
 - ii. Has anyone been able to be in contact with Berkshire East.
- e. Warner Hill Rd.
 - i. Question about the barn and can this be included on the design. We will add this business location to the design. Have WG&E to put a tap there for that.
- f. S. Heath Rd. residence
 - i. Owner opted out of service at the time of the design completion.
 - ii. New owner would like service.
 - 1. Motion to offer the \$500 cold drop subsidy
 - a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Cheryl-yes, Bob-yes, Valentine - yes, Mary Ellen - yes, Doug-yes, Trevor - yes

5. Commercial Pricing

- a. No update
- b. Bob will try to move this forward with John Leary

6. Subscription Campaign

- a. Volunteer Coordination/Outreach
 - i. Cheryl has put together a book with info for volunteers
 - ii. Volunteer outreach has netted several volunteers
 - iii. One volunteer is working on school outreach
- b. Subscription Update
 - i. FSA01 is still under-represented
- c. Marketing
 - i. Time for lawn signs!
 - ii. Cheryl put flyers into the tax bills
 - iii. Cheryl spent Wed and Sat at the transfer station
- d. Information Session Review
 - i. Bob and Laura recorded a new short version of the presentation
 - ii. Cheryl transcribed the Q&A to accompany the video
 - iii. WGE has announced that they will offer EBB

7. Project Finance Update

- a. Bob discussed federal funding for debt relief with Sarah, she will reach out to Rep. Neal's office

8. **Project Schedule Update**

- a. No update. Bob will be discussing this with Joe Parda.
- b. Priority to get active electronics installed

Next meeting, April 5, 2021

Meeting adjourned, 8:10 pm