

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

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

1. Approve Minutes and Meeting Notes from 4/5/2021

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Cheryl-yes, Bob-yes, Valentine - yes, Mary Ellen - yes, Doug-yes, Trevor- yes, Ken - abstain

2. Status of Make-Ready

- a. West Hawley Road residence
 - i. We clarified that the next step is for WGE to determine if we require a new pole set or if using the existing utility pole will suffice. WGE will make a site visit and a determination.
- b. Thunder Mountain Lane residence
 - i. Verizon make-ready survey was completed; no make-ready is required.
- c. Town Hall Exterior
 - i. No update
- d. Town Hall Generator
 - i. No update
- e. Hawk Hill Rd
 - i. National Grid informed WGE that they were fine with us attaching when the poles are up, even if the power work is not completely finished. WGE realized on the phone call that we don't have an application for those poles (and thus no specified attachment heights). WGE will coordinate with National Grid.
 - ii. Trevor suggests that we look to existing heights. He will send a note to WG&E.
- f. Tree trimming at Shunpike
 - i. Ben Niles cancelled on us this weekend. Bob reached out to Lanoue on Monday morning and they said they would go by later on Monday and give us a quote.
- g. Permitting on Rt 2
 - i. How many permits are needed? Current permit is for work between designated mile markers. Bob will check in with WG&E if another permit has been filed.

3. Distribution Network

- a. Status and next actions
 - i. Progress continues on FSA05 and some work in FSA04, mostly due to mud in Heath and our plentiful availability of paved roads. Splicers are scheduled to arrive in town on April 24.
 - ii. There was a long discussion on the WGE call about the FSA05 easement. Triwire wants to do a fiber cut and butt splice at Route 2, WGE is pushing back asking them to pull the cable through the easement. Bob agreed to try to contact the first house east about access behind the house because it would help Triwire to be able to get equipment in there.
 - iii. South Street - is the fiber correctly hung in that area? WG&E has inspected this area. A citizen has reported a possible issue.

4. Hub Electronics

- a. Status and next actions

- i. WGE is accelerating installation aiming for early June. Cheryl shared the information on the grant commitment from WGE which promised installation of the active electronics by June 6.
- b. MBI Connection
 - i. WGE is putting this in motion for June 1. WGE needed to know the term of contract we wanted. Bob tentatively went for month-to-month to not lock us in to MBI long term.
 - ii. Cheryl is interested in exploring the Crown Castle backhaul option.
 - iii. ACTION TAKEN: Vote to purchase backhaul on a month by month basis
 - 1. **ACTION TAKEN:** Cheryl-yes, Bob-yes, Valentine - yes, Mary Ellen - yes, Doug-yes, Trevor- yes, Ken - yes
 - iv. Charges for the backhaul will not commence until customers are served.
- c. Insurance needs to be in place

5. Drops

- a. ConCom update
 - i. ConCom hearing was held. They issued a negative determination (meaning we are all set with the WGE process). They asked WGE if they would do one or two locations early (prior to June 1) to practice the process. Marguerite Willis volunteered her house as a test case.
- b. Schedule for underground consultations
 - i. No update - expected to be starting consultations around June 1.
- c. South River Rd condos
 - i. No update.
- d. Bassett Rd. House
 - i. Bob sent a write up to put before the Selectboard for approval. Broadband Committee recommends the language put forth in the document presented.
 - 1. **ACTION TAKEN:** Cheryl-yes, Bob-yes, Valentine - yes, Mary Ellen - yes, Doug-yes, Trevor- yes, Ken - yes
- e. South River Rd
 - i. BOM suggests this is a good approach
- f. West Hawley Rd residence
 - i. BOM would also like to see the total cost
- g. Tactical acceleration IGA
 - i. The committee reviewed the proposed IGA and had several questions and/or recommendations:
 - 1. Can we get something in writing from Bill Ennen that EOHED will stand behind these reimbursements (they are not a party to the IGA)?
 - 2. Ask to add a clause allowing us to withdraw from the amendment with 30 days notice (or some other exit clause).
 - 3. Zip code should be 01339
 - 4. Ask Bill Ennen whether Bob's worst case estimate of \$25K is accurate.

5. When do we need to decide about this?

6. Commercial Pricing

- a. Bob talked with Gabe Porter-Henry at Berkshire East. Bob also reached out by email to John Leary in the context of the discussion around MBI backhaul.

7. Subscription Campaign

- a. Subscription Update
- b. Marketing update & next actions
 - i. Underground locations in FSA 01 status & next actions
 - 1. Robo call rather than individual calling. Call people that you know but perhaps cold calls to unknown folks.
 - a. Bob will write a script for the robo-call.
 - ii. Lawn sign distribution?
 - 1. Parks & Rec
 - 2. Town hall lawn
 - iii. Banner location(s)
 - 1. One in my closet - consider the box factory location for a banner- how close is too close?
 - 2. One at Averys
 - 3. One I use at the transfer station but could share

Next meeting, Monday, April 19th at 6 PM

Adjourned 8:05 PM