

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Mary Ellen Banks, Lora Fulton, Ken Hall, Cheryl Handsaker

MISSING: Doug White

1. Approve Meeting Notes from 1/25/2024

- a. **ACTION TAKEN : APPROVE MINUTES from 1/25/2024 moved by Lora, second by Cheryl**
 - i. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes, Ken-abstain

2. Digital Equity Plan Review

- a. **Can we use the money to be directly in Charlemont? How would we spend our \$56,000?**
 - i. Can we use the money for in home consulting?
 - ii. Can we use the money for former ACP recipients late fees?
 - iii. Public WiFi?
 - iv. UPS backups as devices and wifi extenders? Check the plan.
- b. **Lora will reach out to FRCOG**
- c. **MOTION: Recommend to the Select Board to accept the Digital Equity Implementation Funding agreement. Moved by Cheryl, seconded by Ken.**
 - i. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes, Ken-yes

3. ACP Opportunities

- a. USF should be expanded to support broadband.
- b. Program is closed but conversation is still in Congress

4. Air conditioner repairs and maintenance

- a. Pomeroy has been trying to replace the board on the existing air conditioner, but this has been unsuccessful to date.
- b. Pomeroy would like us to purchase a serviceable air conditioner.
 - i. \$7.600 quote for Pomeroy
 - ii. Town to get 3 bids for a replacement unit, and then moving ahead with the replacement.
 - iii. **ACTION TAKEN : PURSUE bids to replace the air conditioner in the machine room moved by Ken, second by Mary Ellen**
 - 1. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes, Ken-yes

5. WG&E Rideouts

- a. Bob has approved a rideout from WG&E to access the condition of the network
 - i. Are they looking at trees? It will be interesting to see what is included.

6. Any other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours in advance of the meeting

- a. **National Grid large project related to pole replacements and relocating poles**
 - i. Pole attachment contract does not have any protections for the town.
 - ii. The next stage of preliminary design is expected in the first week of June for this project
 - iii. Perhaps National Grid will help us apply for the grant funding?

- iv. Low performing power lines are required to be upgraded.

- b. Budget numbers approved at town meeting, the numbers were not correct.**
 - i. The town presented last year's budget for town approval by accident.

- c. BEAD Challenge**
 - i. BEAD Challenge process is to identify unserved/ served/ underserved locations.**
 - 1. Live on June 10, open for 30 days.
 - 2. Can this be used for installations?
 - a. Would the ISP charge you a non-standard price for installation?
 - b. Can our uninstalled homes be identified as unserved so that these will be eligible for the items for BEAD money?
 - c. Can we generate a BEAD challenge for each? It is one/ unserved home. We have up to 200 eligible homes.
 - d. With BEAD money we could pay for interior wiring of the home can be included in the grant for installation for hot drop.

 - ii. Can BEAD money be used to expand the network to areas that might be used for approved subdivisions or new homes?**
 - 1. Distributed by census block groups.

 - iii. Can BEAD money be used for network monitoring?**
 - 1. Follow up with Ted Harvey relating to whether this can be used.

 - iv. Bob will follow up related to BEAD challenge or using BEAD money to expand the network.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 18 @ 6:30

Meeting adjourned 8:32 PM

- **Moved by Cheryl, seconded by Lora.**
 - d. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes, Ken-yes