

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Charlemont Town Hall

ATTENDING: Doug White, Trevor Mackie, Bob Handsaker and Cheryl Handsaker

Missing: Bill Tucci, Mary Ellen Banks, Ken Hall

1. Approval of minutes from 3/6/2019

- a. ACTION TAKEN: Minutes approved unanimously with one abstention

2. Status of Make-Ready

- a. Pole surveys underway by both utilities
 - i. Estimated completion date is still not set. Sometime after February 2020.
- b. Application fees paid
- c. Received the next disbursement from the state.
- d. National Grid contract is still needed

3. Status of NEE

- a. Total BTU number has been provided by WG&E
- b. Determine how we prepare the bid package - three smaller ones vs a single bid package.
 - i. Use a single contract so that we would have a general contractor.
 - ii. Explore FRCOG procurement specialist. Doug will contact Andrea Wood.
 - iii. Amy Wales might be able to review this for us to save money if needed.
 - iv. Doug will add the HVAC information to the NEE Build description

4. Status of Distribution Network

- a. Town Hall distribution - Two entries to the town hall, aerial over Rt. 2. Route from the east follows MBI to the light pole, underground and trench in front of the town hall. From the west come to the utility pole serving the store, through the trees to the new pole, new utility pole.
 - i. Template agreement for an aerial easement agreement.
 - ii. Bob will approach neighbors about these agreements.

- iii. Sewer and water pipe location would need to be established.
 - iv. Draw the final site plan with with trenching
 - v. Consider trenching from the west and move the conduit through that stretch rather than through the trees. Bob will explore an easement for conduit.
 - vi. DOT estimates \$50/foot for underground trenching.
- b. Hawk Hill Rd. / Heath Stage Terrace
- i. WG&E has been out. Design is due Friday/ Monday.
 - ii. Bill Ennen wants a narrative for the Heath Stage Terrace/ Hawk Hill Rd. Bob will write this up.
 - iii. Design in hand, ready to engage the residents around this pole hearing.
- c. Edge cases
- i. Rowe - good meeting. Template agreement in hand. Tatro Road, we will have 30 fibers in an IRU from that cable. Rowe wants 24 fibers to the town hall but this may not be well thought out. How many spare slots we have in the fiber rack? Maybe we should have an agreement to share maintenance cost. There is more exposure to the town hall for the 6 miles to the town hall than the .4 miles of Rowe network. Bob will draft the agreement for Tatro Road.
 - ii. Heath - We should consider fairly paying for our use. Trevor will check the cut sheet for Basset Rd. Bob will check with Heath regarding the status of the design.
 - iii. Colrain - do we need a town interconnect?
- d. Traffic Calming
- i. DOT Questions. Bob will connect with Mark Paige.
 - 1. Would like to know if we will be above or below MBI? Not up to us.
 - 2. How many days will we need on Rt 2? 45-60 days.
 - ii. Doug shared the information on the Axia fiber move.
 - iii. Bill Ennen is requesting a coordination role with DOT and EOHEd to help to coordinate the state efforts for the benefit of the conduit.
 - iv. Try to go aerial over Rt 2.

- e. Railroad Crossing
 - i. Railroad crossings outside the public way might cost of \$5000/ year. Is this only needed on the utility side?
 - ii. Doug provided our PanAm contact, Ted Krug 978-663-1077 tkrug@panam.com.
 - iii. Jason Wing - Axia field operations- contact directory or Cornell Robinson at MBI.
 - 1. Ask if they also have an aerial license agreement 159 and 151 Main Street
 - iv. WG&E uses an organization to do the work of checking for crossing right of ways.
 - v. Wendell is also dealing with this issue.
 - vi. Cheryl will contact Bill Ennen re: Bill Ennen regarding next actions.
- f. Bridges
 - i. DOT recommends 200 feet of slack loop at bridges.
 - ii. Trevor indicates 75 feet on each side of the splice.

5. Continue Drop Policy Discussion

- a. Cheryl will continue to crunch numbers.

6. Status of Wired West Refunds

- a. Most people have received money
- b. Compare lists and generate mail merge email

7. Status of additional funding sources

- a. Generator grant is being submitted.
- b. USDA Rural Broadband Reconnect grant should be looked at in more detail.
- c. Legislators are discussing how additional broadband funding.

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

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** The broadband committee strongly recommends the hiring of a new town administrator to save the town time and money on the fiber optic build. Unanimous.

Next meeting: April 10, 2019 6PM

Meeting adjourned 8:15 PM