

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Monday, January 13 at 6:00 pm at the Charlemont Town Hall

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

Missing: Ken Hall, Mary Ellen Banks, Bill Tucci

1. Approval of minutes from 1/6/2020

- a. Minutes approved unanimously

2. Next actions on Policy Document

- a. Perhaps pass the document by the Senior Center?
- b. Additional request for a simpler document
- c. Pass it by landlords for review?

3. Status of NEE

Obear Construction is scheduled to begin the work this week

- a. Obear needs to provide the insurance paperwork, Workmen's Comp to Kathy Reynolds
- b. Trevor & Bob will work together to provide coverage for Wednesday

4. Status of Make-Ready

a. Status of utility applications

- i. EOHED paperwork has been signed by the Selectboard Chair
 1. Bill Ennen will pick this up on Tuesday

b. Town Hall Exterior

c. Railroads

i. Long Bridge

1. Bob had a phone call with Osmose and Joe Parda. Good phone call. Osmose is willing to work on a design within our parameters that might entail installing 2 or 3 town owned poles. Next step is that Jim Taylor from Osmose will contact us to work out hourly rates and an expectation of what the design work would cost.

ii. Tower Road

iii. South River Road

iv. West Hawley Road residence

d. Ledge Lane

- i. We discussed the pole hearing for Ledge Lane and National Grid's offer to install a conduit for our town network if we supply the materials to the job site when the construction is going on.
- ii. We agreed that we would love to have them do this.

- iii. Bob will ask Mike Tatro if he would be willing to add our proposed conduit to his drawing to be presented at the pole hearing continuation.
- iv. We also agreed to ask the select board that the MLP should be notified about all pole hearing and other hearings or notices that will affect the town's network infrastructure.

5. Status of Distribution Network

- a. Next actions on design Heath Stage Terrace and Hawk Hill Rd. following Select Board decision.
- b. Edge Cases - Heath
 - i. Reviewed the proposal from Heath. Areas of clarity needed:
 - 1. How many fibers would be dedicated for Charlemont? Asking us to pay for 48. We assume they would give us 48 user fibers.
 - 2. Do they really need 48 fiber uplifts on most of these paths?
 - 3. Operating costs is a 50/50 split on pole leases and maintenance costs needed. This is not the deal we were planning to give to Rowe.
 - 4. We discussed alternatives to the Heath proposal. We should investigate whether it would make more sense to do an underground path prep project on Warner Hill (2700') and offer to exchange the Bassett Road customers to Heath if we pay the construction costs for the distribution network. The proposed operational costs are awfully expensive.
 - 5. Procurement perhaps add "experience on local fiber projects"
- c. Slack loops around stream crossings.
 - i. We went over Doug's work on analyzing all of the stream crossings.
 - ii. We developed a list of questions for WG+E:
 - 1. If we are putting in slack loops for a stream crossing, should include slack loops on MSTs?
 - 2. Is there any benefit to having an additional slack loop if there is already a slack loop (because of a splice closure) within 1 pole (2 poles), etc.? Or within a certain distance?
 - 3. Verify: If the plan has a horseshoe pair marked "75", does this mean 150 total feet of slack (because the distance between the shoes is 75 feet)? We note that some slack loops (on long cables) say 150, not 75.
 - 4. Are there different considerations around long cables (purple on the plan) vs. blue cables with many splice closures.

- iii. Other network updates: At 487 Mountain Road, the MST should be shown on the next pole north (which is the pole that serves or formerly served the house/cabin).
- iv. WG&E Distribution Network Questionnaire
 - 1. Noise ordinance from Kathy
 - 2. Doug has discussed rates with Jared.
 - 3. Staging area
 - a. Gordon suggested the old box factory for the staging area.
 - b. Good access from Rt. 2 - they may need to arrange for plowing
 - c. Fairgrounds - trailers will be going up and down, sanding for trucks.
 - 4. Complete draft of questionnaire - needed for bid specs - Doug will drive this one to conclusion.

6. Project Schedule Update

- a. We discussed the need to update the project plan. Cheryl has been working on this. An important priority is to make sure we get all of the gating items done so that we can get the distribution network out to bid in the early spring.

7. Project Finance Update

- a. Payments/ Income of Broadband project
 - i. BOMB meeting on Wednesday
- b. Status of additional funding sources

8. Communication Notes

- a. Workshop planning?
- b. Wired West communications with folks without provided email contact information

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm