

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of June 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602
Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Kemp, Chris Rietmann, Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty, Jim Howard, and Mark Mastrocinque.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Kauders (on conference line)

CALL TO ORDER: Joe Levesque called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS: Gordon Kemp was elected as Chair, Joe Levesque as Vice-Chair, Mark Mastrocinque as Secretary, and Joel McCarty as Timekeeper. It was agreed that the Committee will meet weekly for now. It was agreed that all Committee communication should go through the Chair. At this time, this Committee is advisory only, without authority to spend funds or negotiate on behalf of the Town.

Discussion of what is currently available for broadband in Alstead. Comcast has part of the town wired for broadband internet. Consolidated Communications offers DSL to the town, but not at broadband speeds. HughesNet is a current satellite option. Viasat is a provider. Chris R. mentioned Star Link as being available in the near future. According to their website, the proposed Starlink system hopes to deliver high-speed broadband internet to locations where access has been unreliable, expensive, or completely unavailable. Starlink is targeting service in the Northern U.S. and Canada in 2020. Gordon K. mentioned that Route 12a has a fiber optic cable running up to the cell tower at the top of the hill and he believes someone on Chartier Lane was able to purchase fiber service off of that.

The Committee has agreed that the following information should be collected:

The number of households in Alstead, households that have internet access, households that have internet access that meets the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) definition of broadband (25/3), households and businesses that desire broadband.

The Committee will develop a plan to survey as many households and businesses in Alstead as possible. We should find out from the Selectboard what a town-wide mailing via the U.S.P.S. would cost. And we should also use social media plus maybe post some

bulletins around town. We will need to ask Comcast, Consolidated Communications (CCI), and HughesNet if they know how many people in town are using their services.

The towns of Chesterfield, N.H., and Walpole N.H. have both recently approved plans involving public/private partnerships with Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services Inc, to furnish broadband access to all households and businesses. We would like to get Denis Marcom and/or Brad Roscoe to speak to our committee. Denis is the person driving the Walpole broadband effort and Brad is the person driving the Chesterfield broadband effort. They would be a great help to us avoiding some of the pitfalls that are bound to come our way should we choose that route. We will need to figure out the process for obtaining the bond necessary to pay for such a project as well as the approximate cost before we can begin to write a Warrant Article for the next Town meeting. This project would need to pass a vote in a town meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Joe– Book the town conference room for weekly meetings through next March.
2. Joe– Contact Brad Roscoe about attending one of our meetings.
3. Joel– Contact Denis Marcom about attending one of our meetings.
4. Joe– Get a copy of the Comcast contract with the town for the ABC to review.
5. Joe– Find out how many miles of town and state roads we have in Alstead.
6. Joe– When these minutes are approved, get them posted on the town website.
7. Chris– Contact Star Link and get any pertinent information from them that they are willing to share with us.
8. Joe– Find out what a postcard mailing to the entire town would cost.
9. Gordon- Post minutes, Agenda, and future meeting Events to Facebook.
10. Gordon- Create a new email account to facilitate Committee communication.

On a motion by Chris R.; seconded by Joe L., the Board voted to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Kemp, Chair
Joe Levesque, Vice-Chair
Mark Mastrocinque, Secretary

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st at 6:30 p.m.