

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of October 7th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall, 9 Main Street, Alstead, NH 03602 Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#

Google meet; <https://meet.google.com/gzp-ovpr-fyf>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Kemp, Jim Howard, Mark Mastrocinque, Joe Levesque, Chris Reitmann & Alan Kauders via Google Meet

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: N/A

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

GUESTS: N/A

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: on a motion from Jim Howard seconded by Joe Levesque, the minutes from the September 23rd, 2020 meeting are approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- Town survey deadline is Oct. 13th. As of Oct. 7th, there are 131 responses.
- Starlink launch carrying approx.. 60 satellites was successful. They currently have 707 satellites in orbit. Their goal is 800. Within 3 months they will be able to cover south to Texas for beta testing. Oct. 4th – OneWeb’s chapter 11 reorganization plan was approved. They plan to offer service next year.
- Chris Reitmann spoke with Tammy St. Gelais, the Exec. Director of the N.H. Bond Bank. They have lots of money to loan. Currently the Bond Bank is lending at 2.04%. If we submit by June 1st, 2021, we can be approved by August 1st, 2021.
- Melissa R. Pierce of Comcast has responded to our RFI on October 5th. Comcast doesn’t offer anything slower than broadband. Comcast has an Internet Essentials program that is available to qualifying low-income families in the areas served by Comcast. Due to Covid-19 ABC members cannot view Comcast’s service maps. The map they provided is very incomplete. Comcast was informed that the information they provided does not address Alstead’s RFI. We need to know the number of Alstead homes that Comcast is capable of covering.
- We will use the Warrant Articles of Rindge and Walpole as a template.
- The Select Board will make the Alstead Broadband Committee an officially recognized committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Town Survey/Deadline is Oct. 13th
- II. Coverage Mapping
- III. Satellite Update From Jim
- IV. Bond Counsel update from Chris/Counsel contact
- V. RFI update from Gordon/deadline Oct. 13th
- VI. Meetings with providers – update from Gordon.
- VII. RFP/work session/finalize on Oct 14th?/present to SB at the Oct. 20th meeting.
- VIII. Warrant Article

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Official appointment by SB

INFORMATIONAL:

OTHER ITEMS:

- I. Public comments: None
- II. Next meeting Wednesday, October 14th at 6:30 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

- I. Chris contacted the Bond Bank and left a message. Chris will continue to be the point person for the Bond Bank. Chris received a call from the Bond Bank. He will follow-up.
- II. JoAnn Lemieux will research the Bond Bank application process.
- III. Jim Howard & Gordon Kemp will prepare the RFPs – **in progress**
- IV. Gordon Kemp will attempt to arrange meeting with Comcast.
- V. Gordon will contact John Snowden of Westmoreland about bonding issues.

On a motion by Jim Howard seconded by Joe Levesque, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 at 6:30PM

These are the approved minutes from the October 7th, 2020 committee meeting.