

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 19th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Municipal Building, 15 Mechanic 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, Joel McCarty, Joe Levesque & Mark Mastrocinque. Chris Rietmann, Joanne Lemieux by Google Meet.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Mary Ann Wolf

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER: called the meeting to order at 6:28 PM.

GUESTS: N/A

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of August 12th, 2020: On a motion from Jim Howard, seconded by Chris Rietmann, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the August 12th meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- I. Joanne Lemieux discussed N.H. grant applications from nearby towns. Her question was can we ask for an acceptance on the time limit? The committee looked at this at and determined that is was not possible given our time frame.
- II. Chris Rietmann will contact the bond counsel to gather information & start discussions.
- III. Brian from WiValley says they have 6 customers in Alstead. WiValley is not regulated and not required to respond to RFI's. WiValley is not going to respond to our RFI. WiValley suggested we meet with them and CCI for a hybrid solution. Gordon Kemp will arrange this meeting.
- IV. We received an answer from CCI on our RFI and they provided the data we requested. We have a good contact at Comcast and they have received our RFI. We are waiting to hear for FirstLight. We will send FirstLight our RFI.
- V. Monadnock Broadband Group put together a document about the Chesterfield model for planning and completing a broadband project for towns. It is posted on the ABC Google Docs site.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Satellite update From Jim. Preliminary beta tests from Starlink seem to meet the FCC definition of broadband. Target for latency is 20ms or less. Starlink latency is greater than 20ms at this time. No update on Amazon project.

- II. Survey is down to 1 page. Town survey printing/mailing will be done the week of August 24th. Most likely at the next Broadband Committee meeting (8/26). 1,190 surveys to mail. Contributions will cover the postage.
- III. Walpole began their conversation with a bond counsel very early. As per Brad Roscoe the costs to the Town of Chesterfield: contract review – Town lawyer (Chesterfield's was on retainer, probably spend about 8-10 hours reviewing contract). Bond Lawyer was about \$5 to \$6k for Chesterfield and we split the cost with Consolidated. Some of the recent Towns (Walpole) have gotten Consolidated to pay for it all. This included all the work for getting the Bond issued. Chris Rietmann will contact the bond counsel to gather information & start discussions.

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATIONAL:

OTHER ITEMS:

- I. Public comments - none
- II. Next meeting Wednesday, August 26th at 6:30 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

- I. Chris Rietmann will contact the bond counsel.
- II. Jim Howard will prepare the RFPs – **in progress**
- III. Gordon Kemp will arrange meeting with WiValley & CCI
- IV. Surveys are ready for mailing. The committee will tentatively prepare them for mailing at the August 26th meeting.
- V. Gordon Kemp will contact FirstLight and send our RFI to them.

On a motion by Joel McCarty and seconded by Chris Rietmann, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:05PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque, Secretary

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 at 7:05PM

These are the approved, official meeting minutes.