

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of September 9, 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, Mark Mastrocinque, Joe Levesque, Chris Rietmann via Google Meet, Joel McCarty via Google Meet.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: N/A

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: JoAnn Lemieux

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

GUESTS: Brian Foucher from WiValley Fiber

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: on a motion from Chris Rietmann seconded by Jim Howard, the minutes from the Aug. 26th & Sept. 2nd, 2020 meetings are approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- I. WiValley has been operating for about 14 years. Only a handful of Alstead customers are served by WiValley. WiValley's service is fiber to the neighborhood with distribution via microwave dish to dish. They have a backup link to Sullivan County. WiValley has thousands of customers. They are doing a four town internet & phone buildout in Mass. 60-70% of the build out is complete in Mass. WiValley is deploying an LTE solution in Mass. WiValley is the builder/owner of the network in Mass. but a different company services the network. WiValley sets the poles and gifts the infrastructure to the town (only the land assets and the poles). Wireless technology minimizes the infrastructure. WiValley operate the N.H. Fastroads network owned by FirstLight. Speed on the wireless side is 25/3. Everything WiValley builds is 25/3 minimum. CBRS (customer band radio service) is the frequency band licensed and used. Technology is 4G LTE with small dish on the house for residential service to a router. No data limits. Typical pricing is \$49-\$59-\$79 per month at various speeds. Phone service is \$10 per month additional with unlimited phone service in North America. Storm fade is not a significant problem with WiValley's technology. WiValley has never partnered with CCI. WiValley is not submitting a proposal for Alstead. WiValley is a small company and cannot back the town bond. Alstead may consider a hybrid solution in our RFP. A100% solution buildout by WiValley for a town like Alstead would be approximately 12 months after commencement of the buildout.
- II. Satellite update from Jim. Starlink is beta testing with internal people, not the public. They claim greater than 100mps with very low latency. They have 703 satellites up.

They will begin service when they have 800 satellites up. They hope to offer service by the end of 2020. They want approval to get satellites closer to earth than they have now.

- III. The next Select Board meeting is on Tuesday, Sept 22nd at 6:00pm. The Alstead Broadband Committee is on the agenda.
- IV. We would like to use Town Hall for the ABC meetings. This is under discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Town Survey Fold And Tape Work Session
- II. Coverage Mapping
- III. Satellite Update From Jim
- IV. Bond Counsel Update from Chris
- V. RFI Update From Gordon – **no change. WiValley will not respond. Waiting on Comcast.**
- VI. Meetings With Providers Update From Gordon

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Use of Town Hall – under discussion

INFORMATIONAL:

OTHER ITEMS:

- I. Public comments - none
- II. Next meeting Wednesday, September 16th at 6:30 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

- I. Chris contacted the Bond Bank and left a message. They have not returned his call. Chris will continue to be the point person for the Bond Bank.
- II. Jim Howard will prepare the RFPs – **in progress**
- III. Gordon Kemp will arrange meetings with CCI and the Select Board. **In progress. WiValley is completed.**
- IV. Gordon will contact John Snowden of Westmoreland about bonding issues.

On a motion by Jim Howard seconded by Chris Rietmann. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:47PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 at 6:30PM

These are the approved minutes from the September 9th, 2020 Alstead Broadband Committee meeting.