

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of October 14th, 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, Joe Levesque, Jim Howard, Chris Reitmann & Joel McCarty via Google Meet

TOWN STAFF PRESENT:

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Joann Lemieux and Alan Kauders via Google Meet

CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

GUESTS:

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: on a motion from Joe Levesque seconded by Joan Lemieux, the minutes from the October 7th, 2020 meeting are approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- Official appointment by the Select Board is underway. Joann Lemieux and Alan Kauder would like to join the Alstead Broadband Committee in an official
- Starlink has been criticized by optical astronomers. Radio astronomers have also complained about Starlink having a detrimental effect on their radio observing. SpaceX small Indian tribe (116 people in 28 households) in the western part of Washington State, the HOH. They want broadband access and are supportive of Starlink. Starlink has been approved by the FCC to participate in FCC funding for underserved areas by census blocks. Alstead is, for the most part, ineligible.
- Chris has spoken to [Renelle L. L'Huillier](#), the bond counsel. She is one of the approved attorneys for the [New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank](#). She has come up with a proposed timeline she suggests we follow. She recommends that we retain her earlier in the process. Her fee is between \$5,000 to \$9,000 to guide the town through the bonding process. She will furnish an opinion letter verifying the town is underserved based on the committee's analysis. The town would only be billed if the town agrees to the terms and the Bond Bank approves the bond to the town.
- Gordon has emailed Comcast and invited them to speak with us.
- Broadband coverage map by Comcast and CCI – first analysis shows 759 (63%) with broadband coverage and 445 (37%) without. This is within 3% of what our mailed town survey shows. These statistics represent households.

- The Broadband Committee will continue preparation of the RFPs. RFPs will not be sent out until we speak with the bond counsel and until the RFPs are approved by the Select Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Official appointment by Select Board
- II. Town Survey/Deadline is Oct. 13th
- III. Coverage Mapping
- IV. Satellite Update from Jim
- V. Bond info update from Chris/Counsel contact
- VI. RFI update from Gordon/deadline Oct. 13th
- VII. Meetings with providers – update from Gordon.
- VIII. RFP/work session

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATIONAL:

- I. Next meeting on October 21st will be back at Municipal Offices due to scheduling conflict and difficult acoustics in Town Hall.

OTHER ITEMS:

- I. Public comments: N/A
- II. Next meeting Wednesday, October 21st at 6:30 PM in Municipal Offices.

ACTION ITEMS:

- I. 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 – **waiting for a response from Comcast.**
- V. Gordon will contact John Snowden of Westmoreland about bonding issues.

On a motion by Jim Howard seconded by Chris Reitmann, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st, 2020 at 6:30PM

These are the approved minutes from the October 14th meeting of the Alstead Broadband Committee.