

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 22nd, 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, Chris Rietmann, Joe Levesque, Jim Howard, Joel McCarty via Google Meet and Mark Mastrocinque.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: N/A

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

GUESTS: N/A

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of July 15th, 2020: On a motion from Chris Rietmann, seconded by Joel McCarty the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the July 15th meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

Chris Rietmann read his draft survey for the town:

- Do you have broadband internet at your residence? Yes/no
- Are you happy with your internet connection at your residence in Alstead? Very satisfied/satisfied/neither satisfied nor dissatisfied/dissatisfied/very dissatisfied
- How do you get access to the internet? Check all that apply.
 1. I have internet access at home
 2. I have internet access at work
 3. I have internet access on my mobile device through my mobile provider
 4. I access through publicly available locations such as Shedd-Porter Memorial Library
- If you have internet access at your residence who is your internet service provider (ISP)?
 1. Consolidated Communications
 2. Comcast
 3. Satellite (Viasat, Hughes, etc.)
 4. Other ISP
 5. WiValley
- Would you consider joining or attending the meetings of the Alstead Broadband Committee? Yes/no

- Do you agree with this statement? “My internet service provider offers their services a good value”. Strongly agree/agree/neither agree nor disagree/disagree/strongly disagree

The link to Survey Monkey will be on the mailing.

Joel McCarty made a motion to do the mailing. Mark Mastrocinque seconded.

OLD BUSINESS:

- i. Town-wide survey/questions/cost? Cost of the mailing is \$213. 1,190 pieces of paper that must copied, folded and taped. Joel believes it can be done with a postcard. The town permit for the survey only goes to residences. It does not go to businesses. Post cards would be 35 cents apiece.
- ii. Brad Roscoe was contacted by Carol Miller and he responded.
- iii. Franchise Agreement with Comcast was provided by Charlotte to Joe - done
- iv. There are 64.87 miles of paved and dirt roads in Alstead. 16.2 miles of dirt roads are not maintained. There are three state roads in Alstead. Joe Levesque will ask David Conescoe. Haven't heard back from D. Conescoe.
- v. Post minutes and meeting schedule on website – Charlotte is working on it.
- vi. Satellite update from Jim Howard: Starlink is close to a beta test. Beta test will begin in rural communities in Washington State. Beta testers will be charged \$1. The beta test covers 44 degrees to 52 degrees northern latitude. Alstead is at 43 degrees. It will not be suitable for gaming. Beta testers must sign a non-disclosure agreement. Amazon has big plans but is in the regulatory phase. OneWeb has launched 34 satellites using Russian rockets. They filed for bankruptcy in March of 2020. The U.K. government along with an Indian company has plans to buy the company. OneWeb appears to be planning on commercial internet service.
- vii. RFI has been prepared by Jim Howard. The RFI from Brad Roscoe was used as a template. Joe Levesque will send the RFI and notify the other Selectman. We will add a specific request to Comcast for maps of their plant buildout in our service area.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Presently the Alstead Broadband Committee has been appointed by the Select Board. All draft minutes will be saved as written. Any amendments' will be made at the next committee meeting and voted to be approved.
- II. HB-1111 has passed both N.H. House and Senate. When you send out an RFI, if the provider does not answer we can consider the entire area unserved. Towns can band together as "communication districts".
- III. Members will review RSA's associated with SB170 for next week's meeting.

OTHER ITEMS:

- a. Public comments
- b. Next meeting Wednesday, July 29th at 6:30 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Joe Levesque will talk to Julie and Charlotte about the specifics of the survey.
- Chris Rietmann will put the Survey Monkey survey together - **done**
- Joe Levesque will determine the cost of a postcard printing & mailing - **done**
- We have the contract & RFP with Consolidated Communications. Brad Roscoe pointed us to a copy of the Chesterfield RFI on the Monadnock Broadband Group website. Jim Howard will draft an RFI - **done**
- Franchise agreement with Comcast was provided by Charlotte to Joe Levesque.
- Joe Levesque and Chris Rietmann will finalize the survey, have it printed and mailed.
- Mark will forward our RFI to Carol Miller and ask her for contact information from Carol Miller for providers. CCI, Comcast and WiValley. Brad Roscoe will also be asked.

On a motion by Jim Howard and seconded by Joe Levesque, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:29PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque, Secretary

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29th, 2020 at 6:30PM

This is the approved official meeting minutes.