

Broadband (Fiber Optics) Study Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Location: Zoom meeting

Committee Members present: Kim Maxwell, Bill Brown, Libby Borden, Nina Ritson, John DeShazo, Brett Robbins, Julie Scharnberg, Jim Jasper

Other attendees: CATV6, Michael Sconyers, Anonymous caller, Phylis Bernard

Meeting called to order: 6:03 PM

Major topics

- Minutes Approval
 - Minutes approved - Unanimous
- Agenda Approval
 - Agenda approved - Unanimous
- GIS Mapping Program
 - Need to finish excel project by end of year
 - Libby to send out list of missing emails
 - Will publish list of homes / distance from road for public review (once complete)
 - Libby to explore Dolittle Lake area homes to estimate connectivity options → need to complete by end of January
 - Kim to check with Sertex on ability to use existing conduit vs. all new trenching
- Marketing
 - 146 responses to survey (16% of 888 homes replied)
 - Bill to compile summary of responses by question
 - Need to assemble small budget for upcoming printing/production
 - Brett (+ IT person) to help host March public meeting)
 - Need to secure date for public meeting with town in March
 - Bill/Nina to connect with Matt to secure the date
- Fundraising
 - Some state funding is TBD
 - Kim to discuss with Department of Agriculture
 - Public fundraising will be delayed until after the business plan is completed
- Business Plan
 - Final cost/build numbers will be estimated for the business plan
 - Support for a “Plan B” – in the event that a town led network is not supported and/or a competitor (Frontier or Comcast) decides to lay fiber line
 - Open question: Should we spend more time with the surrounding towns?

- Can this involve revenue generation → this seems far fetched; will be hard to get someone to buy into that business plan
 - Philanthropy: Strong option; would slow us down, but could be a unique approach
- Can we get representation on the Cable Advisory Council → will help us connect with existing providers
 - Nina to follow up with Matt R. about this
- Roadmap for other communities
 - Challenging to approach project as a “region” as there is no governing body or legal structure to contract across the region
 - Focus needs to be on Fiber as a public good; all members of community subsidize (a la roads, sewer)
- To-do list
 - Top priorities
 - Spreadsheet – GIS
 - Business Plan
- Upcoming meetings
 - First week of Jan – likely Thursday, Jan 7

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett Robbins
Secretary