

June 15, 2015 Montague Town Hall  
Broadband Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes - Meeting commenced 6PM  
Committee members: Peter Vichi, Kevin Hart, Lisa Enzer, Rob Steinberg  
Visiting guests: members of Harwick MA BB Committee: Stan White, Sherry Patch,  
Bob Martin  
Member Shutesbury, MA BB Committee: Gayle Huntress  
Matrix Rep: Chris Lynch

General introductions made. Audience member launched into discussion concerning MBI and need for MLP and voiced concern that there were two town committees vying to negotiate, "the same thing" and "it's all about the bandwidth", and that the present committee was uninformed. Chairman Hart regained order and proceeded with agenda.

1. Minutes of 4/28/15 approved AIF

2. KH gave update on most recent MBI (6/10) meeting: MBI will issue RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for service providers with anticipated deadline August 3, 2015. Currently, Matrix, Axia, and a consortium led by Crocker would potentially be interested in submitting RFQ to build out Montague's unserved areas.

MBI still wants letter of need/request from Montague. Kevin drafted a letter last month, however, the changes presented at this MBI meeting, requires re-drafting of said letter.

(had to re-order agenda to accommodate visitors' timeframe)

4. Montague needs a pole survey and can't get funds until there is an MLP, hence need to do a volunteer based survey to give MBI accurate request, while BB prepares to present request for MLP at fall special town meeting. It is estimated there are 20 miles of mainline poles to inventory and about 200 residences with estimate of 26 (mainline) poles per mile.

Gayle Huntress created an app for pole survey, which was very successfully used in Shutesbury by volunteers. Discussed how to do this in Montague, and gave short demo. Gayle to be in touch with fee breakdown for app. She will provide training and data collating. Gayle specified details of best approach to collect accurate data, including info on service poles on driveways and support poles. Committee will set date for volunteer training and walkabout for weekend in July. App looks like excellent solution to get data to MBI in early August, in concert with RFQ deadline. PV and RS will work with Gayle to get app customized for needs of Montague. Conversated about recruiting volunteers and outreach.

PV mentioned Phoenix is available to do pole count, however, the issue of no funds makes this unwieldy. Although the proposal from Phoenix was verbal their quote was approximately 50 poles per day at a cost of \$1,500 per day.

General conversation/discussion between all present from committees including issues of cost, feasibility, Comcast, alternative solutions (eg: hybrid wireless), frustrations, politics, and community buy-in. All agreed to continue community

sharing of information is valuable as 'pioneers' in innovating creative solutions to reach similar goals. (Harwick and Shutesbury members departed).

3. KH presented timeline, will re-visit in more detail at upcoming meeting. Necessary to get more residents involved. Discussion ensued on increasing outreach and visibility. LE volunteered to do public recruitment and help plan survey event. KH will update BoS at end of June, and will have preliminary letter to MBI by then. Letter needs to be sent by BoS and cc: Rep. Kulick. Walter to put BB on June 29BoS agenda.

Discussion on initial expectation that Comcast was recipient of all funds funneled through MBI, how that's changed and the subsequent arising issues.

CL clarified RFQ details and need for surety bond from town based on # of poles. Again demonstrating need to get pole survey completed ASAP.

RS asked that letter to specifically ask MBI to respond with exact process town needs to follow.

KH will check why BB committee not functioning on town web site.

Next meeting 6/23/15 at 6PM

Adjourned: 8:20PM