

Broadband Commission
September 27, 2021 6:00 PM via Zoom
Regular Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman John Morosani called the regular meeting to order at 6:10 PM with Erich Marriott, Steven Simonin, Bruce Schnitzer, Burke Gibney, and John Bongiorno. Jeff Zullo joined at 6:26. Also present was Paul Ofman a Litchfield resident.

Absent: Stephan Krucker (Alt.)

Approval of Minutes: Motion: S. Simonin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 23, 2021. E. Marriott seconded. All present voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: P. Ofman stated that he was interested in what the broadband commission was concerning itself with.

Old Business:

1. Wifi in the center of Litchfield

The Commission discussed the possibility of using the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) fiber broadband network to backhaul data from a muni wifi network. J. Bongiorno wanted to know where the CEN connections were located. It was thought that there was a CEN connection at Center School and at the Town Hall and possibly the LVFD firehouse. J. Bongiorno and J Morosani said they would coordinate with the Litchfield Public School and CEN to ascertain where the fiber connections were located. J Bongiorno and S. Simonin said they would discuss what would be needed in a muni wifi network. J. Bongiorno wanted to make sure that whatever connection was made, either at Center School or at Town Hall would take place outside the relevant network to make sure that the muni network would not jeopardize the security of the school or town network.

Assuming that there was fiber at all four firehouses, it was agreed that it would be good for safety and security to have muni wifi networks at all four fire stations. Jeff Zullo said that funding for such a network could likely be initiated with ARP Funding that the town has received. A 2 phase program was discussed with phase one being a demonstration trial in the center of Litchfield, and provided that the demonstration was successful, phase two would be a rollout to Bantam, Northfield, and East Litchfield. J. Bongiorno thought that an Access Point on each fire station could cover a 2-300 foot radius from the station with a ¼ mile direct antenna providing additional reach. We would seek to put together bid specs for phase one and phase two and bid the project out. J. Bongiorno agreed to work on bid specs.

2. Coordination between the 8 Optimum towns

J Morosani reported that there had yet to be any meeting between the Selectmen/Mayors of the 8 towns where Optimum was planning to build out a FTTH network: Litchfield, Torrington, Goshen, Cornwall, Warren, Morris, Watertown, and Thomaston. He also reported that the NWCOG had allocated money to hire a coordinator to work with the NWCOG towns to discuss FTTH strategy. Kitty Kieffer, a NWConneCT board member from Salisbury has been hired to coordinate between the towns. It was thought that little activity would take place before the election as all 8 selectmen/mayors were up for reelection.

Next Meeting: The next Commission meeting will be October 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Adjournment: J. Morosani declared the meeting adjourned at 6:49. There was no dissent.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Morosani', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John W. Morosani