

Broadband Commission

January 24, 2022 6PM via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman John Morosani called the meeting to order at 6:02PM with Stephen Simonin, John Bongiorno, Erich Marriott, Bruce Schnitzer, Jeff Zullo, Burke Gibney, and Stephan Krucker present. Also present was Denise Rapp.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: J. Bongiorno moved to approve the minutes of the December 6th, 2021 meeting. J. Zullo seconded. All present voted aye, and the motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Old Business:

1. Wifi in the center of Litchfield

J. Morosani provided an update from the Board of Selectmen special meeting on December 7th. The Selectmen approved \$50,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to move forward with Phase 1 of installing broadband in town. The funding was put into a capital request that included a generator for the High School and Oliver Wolcott Library. Without a 24/7 generator at the high school, the CEN connections to the firehouse and town hall are not possible.

J. Bongiorno shared an update on learnings and revised phasing for broadband installation in town. Phase 1 of installing broadband in Litchfield will include: 1. design and implement all CEN Sites with indoor wireless; 2. design, purchase and deploy all similar networking equipment for each CEN site; 3. add an outdoor coverage component to all the sites in Phase 1 (Litchfield Town Hall, Litchfield Fire Department, Bantam Firehouse, Northfield Firehouse, East Litchfield Firehouse)

Phase 2 of installing broadband in Litchfield will include identifying a zone to implement an outdoor wireless network. This will allow the town to understand the access point (AP) positions needed, bandwidth requirements and full roaming coverage for the initial zone. Steps will be documented for full/permanent outdoor deployment along with a full test plan.

Phase 3 will consist of full wireless deployment to all zones, with a priority list to be determined.

Denise Rapp questioned what an ongoing budget might entail. A yearly budget could cost \$12K for licensing and support. The town would need to identify a vendor for support. Jeff Zullo questioned what the life span of a wireless network is. On average the life span of a wireless network is 7 years before requiring an upgrade.

Motion: J. Bongiorno moved to take the plan to an RFP. Jeff Zullo seconded. All present voted aye and the motion carried.

2. Coordination between the 8 Optimum/Altice towns

Steve Simonin provided an update from the last CTAC meeting and shared that Altice has completed all the engineering to bring fiber to the home. Cabinets for fiber will be located in two proposed locations, one on Rt 254 and a second on Rt 202. Altice indicated that they would be able to run fiber to the home by the end of the year for those who desire it.

New Business:

1. Civitas Network

John Morisani shared that the town received a brochure from Civitas. Civitas is a high-performance data network that can be designed to meet the needs of a community. An arrangement for Civitas to present their capabilities will be made at a future meeting.

Adjournment: J. Morisani made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:29PM, seconded by J. Zullo.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephan Krucker