

TOWN OF BEDFORD
January 16, 2020
BEDFORD TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Telecommunications Committee was held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Bedford Town Office Conference Room, 24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Bill Duschatko (Chairman/Town Council Rep), Denise Ricciardi, Chris Swiniarski, and David Tuttle. Also present: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager, and Rebecca Hebert, Planning Director.

Chairman Duschatko called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

Councilor Ricciardi passed out materials from Timothy Schoechle, Senior Research Fellow, National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy who recently spoke with the NH Commission studying the Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology and who she thought would be an excellent speaker for Bedford. She felt his information would help be a selling point for a fiber network in Bedford.

Old Business

- Municipal fiber network – The Committee discussed the value and successes of municipal fiber networks and Chairman Duschatko indicated that the one in NH to look at is Hanover. Other projects to review include the FastRoads Network, Wicked-Fast Internet (also known as The East Central Vermont Telecommunications District a consortium that includes 24 towns) which Hanover and Lebanon, NH may become a part of, Portland and Millinocket, Maine, as well as Bristol and Winchester, NH.

Mr. Swiniarski offered to take on looking for examples in New England and the US. It was also discussed that research on funding options needed to be completed. Chairman Duschatko indicated that it will be critical to get feedback from those in municipalities that have experience in developing networks.

- Survey – The Committee reviewed the survey and made edits with a goal of releasing it in the next week. It was agreed that the Committee would help with promoting the survey on social media and that the Planning Staff would create some graphics that could be used for a post card and social media outreach regarding the survey. It was discussed that members of the Committee could pass out post cards and man a computer at the primary election.
- Right of way ordinance - Mrs. Hebert reviewed decisions that had been made at the last meeting and where the updates stood. The Committee agreed that the ordinance should move forward without the pre-approved pole and mounting detail section until we see if the ordinance is adopted due to the cost and effort involved with completing that work. It was also agreed that batching could be handled in the regulation and that the ordinance did not need to encourage development of small cell or 5G systems in

the commercial zones. The goal is to introduce the ordinance to the Town Council in April.

The Committee discussed privacy issues related to fiber networks and agreed that more research into the issue needed to be completed.

New Business

- Mrs. Hebert reviewed two zoning amendments that have been proposed by the Planning Board that would update the purpose statement of the wireless telecommunications ordinance and require a five acre minimum lot for the construction of a new tower.

Chairman Duschatko adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sawyer, Town Manager