

TOWN OF BEDFORD
February 20, 2020
BEDFORD TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Telecommunications Committee was held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Bedford Town Office Conference Room, 24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Bill Duschatko (Chairman/Town Council Rep), Kathleen Bemiss, 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 11:37 a.m.

Old Business

- Survey – Chairman Duschatko indicated that the survey had good traction the first week, but had few results since. He said it was hard to judge the public’s interest so far and that we should try again at the next election to get people interested in completing the survey. He indicated that there had been no real business response and that he would map the street addresses that had been provided. Mrs. Bemiss indicated that she would try to make contact with the business community. There was discussion of holding a forum at the high school auditorium, but it was determined they didn’t yet have information to present. The Committee discussed what an acceptable response rate/number would be but no final determination was made. There was a request to have the school superintendent include a link to the survey in his next communication to parents.
- Municipal Fiber Network – The Committee discussed the value and successes of municipal fiber networks and how they should educate the public about them. There was discussion of having a show on BCTV as well as other public service announcements. It was indicated that if the survey provided a lukewarm response then it would show that the network would not be worth doing. It was also noted that they needed to identify champions for the project in the community.
- Right of Way Ordinance - Mrs. Hebert reviewed updates since the last meeting and indicated that she had met with DPW Director Jeff Foote. It was decided that the words, “including personal wireless communication facilities” would be added to paragraph D of Section 239-4 Utilities. It was discussed that the routine application should not be made too difficult and that the whole application and committee process should be reviewed after a while. Other changes included clarifying that the Council could appoint “up to” two alternates in Section 239-4,E and annual certifications could be submitted on “or before” January 31 in Section 239-4,T. Lastly it was agreed that the ordinance should be effective upon appointment of the committee and adoption of their rules of procedure. The ordinance will be introduced to the Town Council at their March 4, 2020 meeting with a public hearing scheduled for April 8, 2020.

The Committee discussed needing to look at what other communities had adopted for preferred designs.

New Business

- None.

Chairman Duschatko adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sawyer, Town Manager