

**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
**July 16, 2020**  
**BEDFORD TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford Telecommunications Committee was held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 virtually over the Zoom platform. Present were: Bill Duschatko (Chairman/Town Council Rep), Kathleen Bemiss (12:02 p.m.), Peter Michaleas, Court Mountifield, Councilor Denise Ricciardi, Chris Swiniarski (11:37 a.m.), and David Tuttle. Also present: Councilor Bill Carter, Rebecca Hebert, Planning Director, and Rick Sawyer, Town Manager.

Chairman Duschatko called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. and provided notice that the meeting was being conducted virtually due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

A roll call attendance was taken.

**New Business**

- Municipal Fiber Network – The Committee discussed the status of NH law in relationship to the ability to finance broadband networks and determined under the current definitions Bedford would not be able to bond improvements. There was a general discussion on what other communities like Bristol, Chesterfield, and Hanover NH had been able to achieve and there was a suggestion that it would be good to have vendors come in to make proposals for a Bedford network so that there could be an understanding of the order of magnitude costs for implementation here. Chairman Duschatko indicated he would complete a list of vendors for the next meeting. It was stated that the pandemic has increased the need for reliable broadband in the community for telecommuting and remote education. The Committee discussed the State request for information (RFI) process and it was determined it would be good for the Committee if Mr. Michaleas would do a summary of the RFI process and Councilor Ricciardi do a summary of the legislative amendment process for the next meeting.

Chairman Duschatko took input on the timing of the next meeting and it was determined that the Committee would meet again on September 17, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Swiniarski, seconded by Councilor Ricciardi which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Chairman Duschatko adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Sawyer, Town Manager