

TOWN OF BEDFORD
July 18, 2019
BEDFORD TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Telecommunications Committee was held on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Bill Duschatko (Chairman/Town Council Rep), Denise Ricciardi, and David Tuttle. Also present: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager, and Rebecca Hebert, Planning Director.

Chairman Duschatko called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

Mr. Tuttle made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2019. Seconded by Mrs. Ricciardi. Approved 3-0.

New Business

- Mrs. Ricciardi updated the committee on her recent trip to Washington D.C. where she attended the Northeast Regional White House Conference. She stated that 5G was not discussed but that in her conversations with other representatives from other states that they have the same concerns as she does but that many others don't know anything about it. The administration representatives at the conference indicated that it was a matter for the FCC. She also stated that she does not put a lot of stock into the NY Times article that was distributed to the committee.
- Mrs. Hebert updated the committee on her work on a right of way ordinance. She has met with the Town Clerk who receives pole permit applications. The applications are reviewed by the Department of Public Works. There currently is no model ordinance in NH for 5G within a right of way and examples from other states are hard to adapt as they have different laws. Our ordinance will have to treat all users of the right of way equally. Her intent is to have a draft ready for the August meeting. One of the questions that will need to be answered is who will review permit applications? The City of Concord has a standing committee. Mrs. Ricciardi stated her request that testing of 5G signals is done frequently as part of the permit.
- Mr. Duschatko spoke about the option to provide a municipal fiber network in Bedford and indicated that Mr. Tuttle had developed survey questions. Their intention is to distribute the questions to the public to parallel the next phase of the Town Master Plan work in September. Mr. Tuttle will circulate the questions to the rest of the committee for comment. Mr. Tuttle indicated that the questions are intended to get people forward thinking in terms of what speed they will need to do their work? Will they want the option to work from home? How much would they be willing to pay? Mr. Duschatko indicated that Francistown still has very slow up/down speeds and Bedford needs to stay current by having great internet service.

Chairman Duschatko adjourned the meeting at 11:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sawyer, Town Manager