

TOWN OF BEDFORD
November 21, 2019
BEDFORD TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Telecommunications Committee was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 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 (arrived at 12:25 p.m.), Chris Swiniarski, and David Tuttle. Also present: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager, and Rebecca Hebert, Planning Director.

Chairman Duschatko called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.

Old Business

- Right of way ordinance - Mrs. Hebert reviewed a recently developed ordinance from the City of Keene and pointed out elements that she felt we should consider. Mr. Swiniarski questioned if the Town should be trying to encourage small cell development in certain areas of town like South River Road and Route 101. He also indicated that the Keene option of having pre-approved designs would help us to be in better compliance with the law.

The committee reviewed their draft ordinance starting with the horizontal projections provision. Keene uses 18 inches off the pole. The committee felt that existing electrical transformers and telephone cabinets are larger than 18 inches. More work is needed to determine what is reasonable, and the committee questioned whether a percentage would be a better standard. It was agreed that horizontal and vertical requirements are needed and that a 5 foot high antenna is acceptable.

Other items agreed on were that a structural analysis would not be required, no additional warning signs would be required as there would already be federal and OSHA requirements that are sufficient, that there should be a provision for batched applications, and that there should be a minimum pole spacing requirement.

The committee reviewed their notes and agreed the following items needed to be further reviewed and or developed in the ordinance or guidelines:

- 1) Spacing requirements for poles on the same side of the road.
- 2) Horizontal projection requirements.
- 3) Pre-approved designs (with an ability for changes for new or modified designs in the future).
- 4) Overall pole usage standards.
- 5) Indemnification procedure.
- 6) A committee to review/approve applications (not an individual).
- 7) An application term (can renew annually).

- 8) Encouragement for development in commercial zones.
- 9) Batched application procedure.
- 10) Top of pole aesthetics.

The committee further reviewed the draft ordinance and agreed Section 270-4, H.b. should be moved to G.d. That the fencing/landscaping requirements of subsection H.c. could be stated as to require concealment to the extent possible to match pre-approved designs. Subsection N could be rewritten to not exceed the volume of the pre-approved equipment. Subsection Q should be rewritten to start off as, “Underground Areas. Utilities and equipment, with the exception of antennas, shall be placed underground...”. And that there should be a provision for a Town exemption.

- Councilor Duschatko reviewed the survey language and asked for any additional comments to be sent by November 25th. The committee stated they really would like to know how many people work from home. There was also general discussion of municipal fiber networks.

New Business

Chairman Duschatko asked if there were any corrections to the minutes and seeing none they were approved.

Chairman Duschatko noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

Chairman Duschatko adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sawyer, Town Manager